

## 1. INTRODUCTION

SASSETA is participating in a process facilitated by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), to compile the *inaugural Priority Skills Plan (PSP)*. This article is intended to update stakeholders in the Safety and Security Sector about the PSP processes. In order to achieve this, the article provides a background, definition of the PSP, purpose of the PSP, components of the PSP, principles for prioritising occupations and interventions in the PSP, and SASSETA'S role in relation to the development of the PSP.

## 2. BACKGROUND

The South African government approved the Re-invigorated Industrial Strategy (RIS) for South Africa (SA) in June 2019. A cornerstone of the RIS is the development of sector-focused Master Plans for the ten priority sectors of our economy. Among these priority sectors, three are of interest to SASSETA, i.e. the (1) Aerospace and Defence Economy; the (2) Health Economy, the Oceans Economy, and (3) Tourism (especially in relation to the emerging occupation / priority occupation of Tourism Safety Monitors).

## 3. DEFINITION OF THE PSP

The Priority Skills Plan (PSP) is a response to Priority 1 on the Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) 2019-2024 i.e. "A skilled and capable workforce to support an inclusive growth path". The PSP therefore an inter-governmental route map to facilitate economic growth where skills gaps (shortage) pose a challenge. It thus imperative for the PSP to be a product of a scientific and a consultative process of identifying and developing interventions to address priority skills in order to enhance social and economic development the short to medium term.

## 4. THE PURPOSE OF THE PSP

The purpose of the PSP is twofold. First, the plan is intended to provide a roadmap on how the South African government will ensure the provisioning of the required priority skills to develop economy and society. Second, it serves as a lever to unblock structural or other bottlenecks within the Post-School Education and Training (PSET) arena that hamper human capital development.

## 5. COMPONENTS OF THE PSP

The PSP will entail the following three components, i.e. qualifications development, implementations of funding arrangements, and forging partnerships for the implementation of interventions to address priority skills.

## 6. PRINCIPLES FOR PRIORITISING OCCUPATIONS AND INTERVENTIONS IN THE PSP

The criteria for prioritising occupations and interventions includes the following, among others:

- The occupation is identified as being key to the implementation of at least one government priority sector;
- The occupation is likely to be absorbed in the economy in the short term;
- The occupation is expected to be a significant constraint to economic growth;
- The occupation traverses several sectors;
- The occupation is associated with any NQF /skills level;
- The number of people required for the occupation is expected to be high; and
- The intervention, especially funding, is not being undertaken through other existing mechanisms to avoid unnecessary duplication or displacement.

## 7. SASSETA'S ROLE IN RELATION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PSP

Three departments of the SETA, i.e. Skills Planning and Research, Education and Training Quality Assurance (ETQA), as well as Learning Programmes are actively involved and contributing towards the development of the PSP, especially as it relates to providing support and advice to the relevant external stakeholders for the inclusion of the occupation -**Tourism Safety Monitors** in the PSP. Engagements between SASSETA, the DHET, the Department of Tourism and the South African Police Service (SAPS) to achieve the same, are underway.

For information will follow as the programme progresses.

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