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Many matriculants will be jobless

Oct 25 2010 13:53 **Sapa**

Pretoria - Fewer than 50% of all matriculants will hold a job in the formal employment sector before they celebrate their 24th birthday, the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), said in Pretoria on Monday.

HSRC chief executive Dr Olive Shisana made the statement as she released the organisation's audited financial results for the year 2009/10, which saw the organisation receive its tenth consecutive unqualified report.

She said the HSRC which was involved with an estimated 155 projects had generated the organisation's "highest income ever" at R340m.

Referring to a study carried out in conjunction with the National Prosecuting Authority, Shisana said the HSRC had recommended that there was a need for public intervention ranging from victim counselling to collaborative work among various crime agencies.

"Education is a very big priority. We know, all of us know, the quality of education is very bad in the country."

HSRC research was looking at how to improve basic education and how matriculants could gain access to further education.

Shisana said there was a high rate of attrition among students, who dropped their studies before obtaining their qualifications. Research had shown that poverty had played a big role.

A large number of school leavers joined the long queues of the unemployed.

"The key question is how to improve the employment prospects of school leavers in the labour market that are not going into higher education."

HSRC research had shown there were some three million people in the 15 to 24 age group who were not studying or working.

Shisana said race was still playing a major role among university graduates, with black graduates battling more than others in obtaining jobs.

She said that currently the department of science and technology contributed some 50% to the organisation's funding while the rest came from external sources such as research grants.

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Nigelcd Oct 26 2010 08:57

@Wake Up Call - and whoever else listens - with reference to the lack of information regarding scarce skills in SA, I was looking for such info myself and went to the Dept of Labour for said info (<http://bit.ly/dxYI2B>) to my HORROR it was last updated in Feb 2009 and the doc cannot be accessed! Seems not even the Dept. of Labour give a damn! Is there anyone out there in control or has the captain abandoned ship!

Amajuba Oct 26 2010 06:59! have the same problem as LABOUR LAW, we could have doubled our staff quota, but due to employment laws we don't have the time to contend with people who "demand" and state "thats not my job!". we pay above the legal wage rates and therefore have a wider choice of person with working skills. also women are harder working and reliable! cut the red tape and watch the unemployment rate fall.

hmm Oct 25 2010 20:23The answer is birth control and population control - why do we have 20 million people who are unemployed and unemployable, clearly the population exceeds the size of the economy. If there were only 10 million people in South Africa the economy and GDP per Capita and I venture to say the Gini coefficient would be in a much better state. Furthermore we are not a developed country, get rid of restrictive legislation, apply economic principals which has worked (like China's) and not those followed in Zimbabwe.

Lutando Oct 25 2010 16:41Greetings to everybody, my advice to matriculants is that they should try careers that are in demand for the development of the country,therefore careers that will enable them to create employment for themselves.

Appietrader Oct 25 2010 16:40!It won't get better and foreing companies, especially mining companies won't invest in SA. You all have to thank julius maelama for it!!! Investors only in vest into SA bonds, NO DIRECT INVESMENTS!!!

Shar Oct 25 2010 16:34No Unions = Employment. How is that so hard to grasp. Labourers cannot expect to demand above infation increases when the global economy is in recession. Firms are already struggling (you can see they not increasing capacity and they had loads of spare capacity). So when labour increases, the obvious thing is to retrench. Its not at all complicated. You cannot expect full employment when unions are holding government (what I mean by this is the taxpayer) and businesses to ransom. All that results in is an increase in unemployment in which a handful benefit by the increae. The other alternative is that business increases the price of a product and pass the increased labour costs onto the consumer (worker).

Wake up call Oct 25 2010 16:32Dear Philani, while I feel great sympathy for the matriculants you speak of I must tell you that even when I got my matric in 89 matric was no guarantee of employment. There are simply not enough jobs in the formal sector and if they really want to get ahead they should be learning a trade or ensuring that they do post-school technical training in one of the areas where there are tremendous job shortages. Unfortunately most of these jobs require maths and science. What annoys me is that I see very little information made available to learners on exactly which skills SA has a shortage of. Have you ever seen a comprehensive list anywhere?

Nico Oct 25 2010 16:30! am in the market to employ people. Before I interview these people they have to do a very easy basic test containing 9 questions. I do provide these people with a calculator as it is nine questions of basic calculations. As this article claimed correctly that blacks battling more then anyone else is true as they cannot do a basic calculation on a calculator ex. R750 - 20% discount = ?? NO CLUE and they just stare at you.....