**FEDUSA MESSAGE OF SUPPORT**

**DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

**GODFREY SELEMATSELA FEDUSA PRESIDENT**

**15 & 16 NOVEMBER 2023**

**DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

**ALL PROTOCOLS OBSERVED.**

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, ESTEEMED COLLEAGUES, AND DISTINGUISHED PARTICIPANTS OF THE 2023 RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM ON MAKING TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (TVET) COLLEGES INSTITUTIONS OF CHOICE.**

**A VERY WARM GREETINGS TO ALL AND THANK YOU FOR AWARDING US THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE HERE TODAY.**

**I STAND BEFORE YOU AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERATION OF UNIONS OF SOUTH AFRICA (FEDUSA), HUMBLED AND HONOURED TO ADDRESS THIS AUGUST GATHERING. THIS COLLOQUIUM IS A TESTAMENT TO THE ENDURING SPIRIT OF COLLABORATION, DEDICATION, AND INNOVATION THAT WE, AS A NATION CHERISH.**

**IN THE SPIRIT OF THE GREAT NELSON MANDELA, WE GATHER HERE TODAY TO UNDERSCORE THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION, PARTICULARLY IN THE REALM OF TVET. IT WAS MADIBA WHO SAID, "EDUCATION IS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON THAT YOU CAN USE TO CHANGE THE WORLD." THESE WORDS REMAIN AS PROFOUND, RELEVANT, AND TIMELESS AS EVER.**

**FEDUSA IS PROUD TO SUPPORT THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN ITS 2023 RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM, FOR WE RECOGNIZE THAT EDUCATION IS A CORNERSTONE OF A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR SOUTH AFRICA. WE ECHO THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMITMENT TO PRODUCING CANDIDATES WHO ARE WORK-READY, AND WHO ARE NOT MERELY EQUIPPED WITH KNOWLEDGE BUT POSSESS THE SKILLS, ADAPTABILITY, AND RESILIENCE TO NAVIGATE THE COMPLEX WORLD OF WORK.**

**THE SIX KEY RESEARCH THEMES BEING ADDRESSED IN THIS COLLOQUIUM ARE NOT JUST TOPICS OF ACADEMIC INTEREST; THEY ARE THE PILLARS UPON WHICH OUR NATION'S FUTURE STANDS.**

**AS WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE CULMINATION OF THE DEPARTMENT'S FIVE-YEAR RESEARCH PROGRAMME ON TVET IN 2024, FEDUSA WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORTS THE OBJECTIVE OF TRANSLATING RESEARCH FINDINGS INTO TANGIBLE ACTIONS. IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO GATHER KNOWLEDGE; IT MUST BE EMPLOYED TO SHAPE THE DESTINY OF OUR NATION. WE MUST SEIZE THESE INSIGHTS TO INFORM POLICIES, PRACTICES, AND PEDAGOGIES IN THE TVET SECTOR, ENHANCING ITS ROLE IN THE GROWTH AND PROSPERITY OF OUR BELOVED SOUTH AFRICA.**

**NELSON MANDELA'S LEGACY TEACHES US THAT OUR UNITY AS A NATION IS OUR GREATEST ASSET. FEDUSA COMMITS TO WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING, EDUCATORS, STUDENTS, AND ALL STAKEHOLDERS TO ENSURE THAT TVET INSTITUTIONS BECOME BEACONS OF EXCELLENCE, FOSTERING WORK-READY GRADUATES WHO WILL HELP SOUTH AFRICA FLOURISH.**

**IN CLOSING, TOGETHER, WITH A RESOLUTE COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION AND THE SHARED VISION OF A PROSPEROUS, EQUAL, AND UNITED SOUTH AFRICA, THERE IS NO LIMIT TO WHAT WE CAN ACHIEVE. THANK YOU, AND MAY THIS COLLOQUIUM BE THE SPARK THAT IGNITES THE FIRES OF CHANGE, ENSURING THAT TVET COLLEGES TRULY BECOME THE INSTITUTIONS OF CHOICE, PROPELLING OUR NATION TOWARD A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR ALL.**

**---END---**