
Ms Ester van der Linde
MerSETA
Corporate Services Executive

CHAIRPERSON: Ester's role, as she comes up, will be to introduce our Deputy Minister to us, but I wanted to tell you a bit about Ester. Ms Ester van der Linde has worked both in public and private sectors, so she has the experience both in the public and the private sector. She joined the merSETA in 2008, when she was appointed at the Manager Human Resource. During her tenure at merSETA, she was promoted to Senior Manager Human Resource and thereafter, the Executive Manager Corporate Services.

As the Executive Manager of Corporate Services, she oversees human resources, marketing and communications, travel, facilities, assets unit, as well as strategic projects relating to career development. Ester is proud to have been part of the SETA and skills development environment since the inception days and formed part of the establishment of the team at the chemical industry sector, the CHIETA. Ester holds a Masters of Philosophy in Human Resource Management, as well as a Masters Diploma in Human Resource Management, a BA Law degree, where she majored with industrial psychology and private law and a number of certificated courses.

Through special projects, such as investors in people and work skills on secondment of DHET, Ester gained extensive experience in setting up and leading governance structures, events management, public relations, marketing and communications, as well as project management at an international level. Ester, please join me on the stage, as you introduce our honourable guests, thank you.

With links to their websites on their logo's

merSETA:

Unisa:

MS VAN DER LINDE: Well after that, I must just say my blood type is zero positive. So in case anybody was wondering if there is any outstanding information, that's the only part she didn't say. Thank you very much and thanks for joining us. We're very excited about kicking off this very important project and I don't have to tell you how important it is. I'm fortunate enough to introduce the Deputy Minister.

He's worked with us on many occasions before and at quite short notice he got it into his calendar to see us this morning. So welcome to him. Thank you for again being part of our initiative and having just escalated himself to a double portfolio. We're very grateful. So to introduce you to Hon Deputy Minister Buthi Manamela, he is the Deputy Minister of the Department of Higher Education, Science and Technology. Formally he was a Deputy Minister in the Presidency and a member of parliament since 2009.

He has worked extensively in this environment. He is still a member of the SACP Central Committee and formerly the National Secretary of the Young Communist League of South Africa. So we really have somebody that's interested in the development of people and furthering the social development of our country, that's so critical. So I'm going to hand over to the DM, but before I do that, I just wanted to mention that as the MERSETA, we see ourselves as playing a very critical role in the whole career development process. You know, that's where the whole skills by-plan starts, is with career decisions that people make and seeing that the manufacturing and engineering space is so affected by Industry 4.0, our role is becoming even more important.

So we highlight in our sector skills plan, we highlight a specific need for us to develop career practitioners that can work in our sector, but we also look at the role of, I'm sure you're aware, we've got a National Skills Development Plan, the NSDP and in that capacity we have to start working together as SETAs, no longer just in our own space. That's why we've partnered with ETDP SETA and we hope as this project moves forward into the future, that we pull in all the other SETAs, because as practitioners, you have to have information, not just about the manufacturing and engineering sector, but of all the different economic

sectors, to provide quality career guidance. I'm handing over to the Deputy Minister and hope that you enjoy and benefit from the rest of today's activities as well.