



## **Acting CEO Notes for Inter-Chamber Conference – 7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**Theme: Building Capable and Strategic Chamber Committees for Improving Stakeholder Participation in the merSETA Implementation of the National Skills Development Plan**

**The Chair of the merSETA Accounting Authority, Ms Kate Moloto;**

**Fellow Members of the Accounting Authority;**

**Current and new members of the Six Chambers of the merSETA;**

**Esteemed Guests....Welcome...**

- This two-day conference is designed to share insights, research findings and new skills development ideas from chambers' 2022-2023 research and innovation projects;
- Your theme: Building Capable and Strategic Chamber Committees for Improving Stakeholder Participation in the merSETA Implementation of the National Skills Development Plan, is vital for the right skills at the right time with the right throughput rate;
- The chambers are the **richest** resource for understanding skills development and industry needs;
- Chambers are the coal face of the mer-Sector as they know the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that face their very own sectors;

- The role of chambers is to be "solution seekers" rather than referees of the merSETA – they look at their sectors to conceptualise new solutions that deal with current challenges;
- The merSETA assists each chamber through annual research grants;
- Recommendations from their research projects are translated into innovation projects which test innovative skills solutions;
- This two-day annual event brings together the power of innovative ideas from the entire value-chain of the manufacturing, engineering and related sectors;
- The two-day conference will focus on 2022-2023 research;
  - Affecting the Metals Chamber, research project one is: **“The effects of gender-based violence on firms in the Metal and Engineering Sector”** and
  - Project two is: **“Metals Incubation Hubs (MIH) : Supporting basic metal product fabrication into viable businesses -- a practical model for sustainable income generating opportunities;**
- Research affecting the Automotive Components Manufacturing is **“Unpacking Automotive Components Manufacturing SIC Codes and activities of companies within the mer-Sector for sectoral profiling to assess and understand industry readiness for the 4th industrial revolution”;**
- Other focus areas are;
  - To reflect and propose the way forward on the New Occupational Qualifications Transitional Arrangements for the sub-sector;
  - Chamber identification of trade qualifications to be prioritised for conversion into new Occupational Qualifications; and
  - Chamber identification of courseware development in lieu of QCTO’s new Occupational Qualifications transitional arrangements.

New jobs and occupations will emerge in our economy to keep pace with world trends.

Our sector’s growth will be driven by localisation, economic patriotism, a strengthened informal sector and infrastructure development and maintenance – all issues that require a skills throughput rate second to none.

With these few words, I wish you well in your deliberation.

The start of the Inter-Chamber conference today is yet another landmark in confronting the future with all its uncertainty.

I thank you.