

New name for SA's university body

22 July 2015 - The Ministry of Higher Education and Training extended congratulations on the formation of the new Universities body which succeeds the Higher Education South Africa (HESA). Universities South Africa was launched in July under the leadership of Professor Adam Habib as its founding Chairperson.

According to Professor Habib, Universities South Africa “will have a broadened mandate than HESA. It will deal with substantive issues, a strong commitment to the Constitution, fostering inclusive society through inclusive higher education to build a developmental society. The organisation will be an activist body that will lobby on critical issues.”

This strategic focus will open up to stakeholders within the higher education sector far wider than Vice Chancellors. Universities South Africa comes at a time when the Minister is convening a Second Higher Education Transformation Summit in October this year.

“We have no doubt that Universities South Africa will make an indelible contribution at this forum,” said the Minister.

“The change envisaged in the reconfiguration of HESA into Universities South Africa is aimed directly at providing an environment conducive for the re-focused organisation to develop and contribute the kinds of expertise needed to enable it to contribute more effectively to meeting these challenges within an expanded post-school education system,” said Minister Nzimande.