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MEDIA STATEMENT

Free State Government dishes out bursaries to needy

The Free State Provincial Government since the current administration has centralized bursary administration to Department of Education in order to achieve efficiency and effectiveness. Since 2009 about 6066 bursaries were allocated to young people throughout the province focusing on rural youth.

This is part government commitment in prioritising education. This commitment was further emphasised by MEC of Education during his speech we he said "Spending on education of the youth is not a cost but a solid future investment".

This initiative form part of the Provincial Skills Development Strategy (PSDS) to bring on board skilled government employees to improve service delivery.

Successful applicants are expected to work for government after completing their studies where there is a vacancy.

The bursaries application forms to study at an accredited Higher Education Institution on a full time basis for current students, Grade 12 learners and unemployed youth for 2013 academic year are now available.

In 2011/ 12 financial year R 181.3 million was paid for bursaries. The 2012/ 13 financial year allocation for bursaries to pay for both maintenance and new bursaries is R 144.7 million. In the 2012 academic year the Department awarded 1 500 full time bursaries to the financially needy and deserving young people in the province.

Students from rural areas and those with disability, orphans are encouraged to apply.

Bursaries will be awarded to successful qualifying applicants for the minimum prescribed or remaining duration of the course. Government already identified scarce skills according to the Free State Provincial Growth Strategy which students must apply for. These fields are specified on the application forms.

All applications must be accompanied by final or mid-year results, certified South African Identity Document (ID) or birth certificate and certified copies of the salary statement/ affidavit of income of a parent or guardian. In case where an applicant is an orphan or disabled proof must be provided.

The bursary covers tuition, text books and accommodation and meals. Application forms are available at all five districts offices and provincial office at Absa Building, 142 Charlotte Maxeke Street (formerly known as Maitland).

The closing date for the submission of applications forms is Monday, 15 October 2012 at 16h00.

***Issued by the Free State Department of Education
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