

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION LAUNCHES PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT DEGREE PROGRAMME AT UKZN**

The Minister of Higher Education, Dr Blade Nzimande, officially launched the Bachelor of Science in Property Development, a three-year Degree programme that will help meet a growing demand for more graduates in the built environment disciplines. The Programme was made possible through a partnership between the Construction Education and Training Authority (CETA), and the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN). The launch took place at UKZN's Howard College Campus on 8 April 2015.

The Degree programme was restored at the University in 2014 with the support of CETA funding and began with its first intake of 73 students, of which 66 received bursaries from CETA. There are currently 113 students registered for the course. CETA has invited new applications for all students wishing to undertake this course.

Minister Blade Nzimande delivered the keynote address at the event, highlighting the important contribution the partnership has made in developing scarce skills, he said, "This programme had been phased out earlier because of lack of funding, yet it represents a critical need in our country. I am pleased that the CETA has committed to support this programme over five years."

Chairperson of the Board of CETA, Mr Raymond Cele, announced the provision of new Bursary funding, "The CETA Accounting Authority has approved in March 2015 new bursary funding to the value of R3 000 000 for UKZN to implement the said Degree Programme in Property Development followed by either the Honours in Quantity Surveying or the Honours in Construction Management."

Delivering the Welcome Address, UKZN Vice-Chancellor; Dr Albert Van Jaarsveld, praised the success of the partnership, "This will further cement the collaborative synergy amongst UKZN and CETA to enhance the quality of the programme and to support the sustainable growth of the construction and property industries."

Programme Co-ordinator, Professor Theo Haupt, says the course is unique in its teaching method and prepares students for the forms of value creation essential in 21<sup>st</sup> century construction. Haupt says that while other universities offer similar qualifications, the instructional approach adopted in the program at UKZN is unique and unmatched. The program is designed to prepare entry-level 21st Century Professionals for the disciplines of construction management, construction project management, construction health and safety, quantity surveying, and property development.

UKZN is now planning to introduce a suite of specialist B.Sc (Honours) degree programmes that will create more opportunities for graduates in the built environment disciplines.

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**Notes to Editors:**

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