

## Message of Support from Head of Cooperation

- The European Union is pleased to be associated with this important forum. I wish to congratulate the National School of Government for its leadership in convening this 20<sup>th</sup> Public Sector Trainers Forum. It brings to the forefront the critical role of capacity building towards realising the aspirations within the National Development Plan (NDP) of building a capable state. The European Union in South Africa aligns itself wholeheartedly with the NDP.
- The EU cooperation with its partners is guided by a policy framework which includes the European Global Strategy, The Lisbon Treaty and most recently The New Consensus on Development. The latter affirms commitment to the entire spectrum of quality education as a prerequisite for achieving the targets set forth in the SDGS and Vision 2030. It states that, "Ensuring access to quality education for all is a prerequisite for youth employability and long lasting development... The EU and its Member States will intensify their efforts to ensure everyone has the knowledge, skills, capabilities and rights they need to enjoy a life in dignity, to be fully engaged in society as responsible and productive adults, and to contribute to the social, economic and environmental well-being of their communities.
- The audience here today made up of teachers, trainers, researchers are the most valuable resource the country can claim. Educators are the bed rock of any society. Your commitment to impart knowledge and provide skills to the public sector empowering public servants to be the best they can be deserves our support and gratitude.
- In that regard the EU is supporting the enhancement of capacity of the public sector through several interventions. For example, EUR 15 million has been provided to support Public Finance Management capacity building programme targeting all spheres of government.
- A second programme is the support provided to the National School of Government with a funding envelope of EUR 10 million to the National School of Government in their efforts to roll out training to the entire public sector and to aspire to levels of excellence through teaching, training and research.
- Some of the key areas covered within that programme which is entitled Public Service Capacity Building programme include:
  - Support to the IT architecture to provide a state of the art integrated student information system
  - Support to research and the publication of case studies through the Africa Journal of Public Sector Development and Governance (AJPSDG).
  - Development of e learning materials
  - Feasibility studies to assess models for financial sustainability, exploration with recommendations on development National Assessment capability.
  - Support is also provided to continue training of young graduates to prepare them for a career in public service.
  - This support to NSG extends beyond the public sector in South Africa but has a reach throughout the Continent through support to the NSGs role as secretariat to AMDIN.

Finally, let me add that the EU is also supporting the state public sector machinery through two separate programmes. One will focus on mainstreaming of gender within public policies (EUR 10 million) and the other seeks to support the capacity building of the legislature (EUR 10 million).

I would like to conclude by wishing all delegates here present the very best deliberations and I look forward to some lively and informative debate.

Thank you for your attention.