

MEC CHECKS ON VARSITY STUDENTS' PROGRESS

2 October 2012

Agriculture and rural development MEC Msebenzi Zwane paid a fruitful visit to the provincial government's bursary holders at Western Cape-based universities to monitor their progress to ensure that government objectives are achieved.

Zwane visited the University of the Western Cape, Stellenbosch University and University of Cape Town to address students who obtained bursaries from the Free State government. Zwane said the bursaries were given to them to go back to their communities and develop the towns they were born in.

"You have been orientated by your communities back home and once you finish your studies you will be in a better position to address the challenges that your community faces and turn such into opportunities," he said.

Zwane met with 200 of the 6000 students who benefitted from the provincial government bursary scheme.

Some of the bursary holders are studying in fields such as chartered accounting, economics, medicine and agriculture, which are relevant for the development of the province.

He said the aim of providing bursaries to students from every town in the province was to address the challenges of poverty, unemployment and lack of human capital in rural areas.

"There is life in rural areas and together we must act collectively to reconstruct the rural areas of the province. It takes time but we will get there because of our investment in you," said Zwane.

Zwane encouraged the students to go back to the communities they come from and develop them. He said since the province had some of the most impoverished towns, this could go a long way in creating growth in the province and those areas in particular.

He said that although the government would like to absorb every one of the students into its system, it would be difficult to do that all at one time.

He also said the government did not have the capacity to develop the province to a point they want to, but through education, he believed that young people would do that with the skills and educational competencies they achieved.

"We must not make a mistake of thinking our leaders have all the answers to take our communities forward. We took a conscious decision to send you to universities so that you will be able to develop the Free State," he said.

"We might not have the capacity to employ all of you, but with these bursaries we hope it will be the stepping stone to a bright future."

[Source: www.thenewage.co.za]