



**REMARKS BY THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF HRD COUNCIL, AT THE 4th HUMAN RESOURCE
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL SUMMIT 2021**

Good morning, my name is Bheki Ntshalintshali, Deputy Chairperson of the HRD Council. It is my privilege and singular honour to welcome you all to this 4th Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) Summit 2021. Firstly, let me acknowledge the role played by Women in the education and development of our nation during this women month. Secondly, let me acknowledge the presence of the following: Deputy President of the Republic who is the chairperson of the council, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, other Ministers and Deputy Ministers, Premiers, HRD Council members, Chairperson of the National Skills Authority (NSA) and all NSA board members, speakers (local and international) and National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT) representatives, representatives from organised labour, business, community, youth, all distinguished guest and delegates who are in this session.

It is the first time that the HRDC is hosting the summit as a hybrid event due to COVID -19 pandemic. COVID has changed our lives. Since the outbreak of this pandemic most of the skills development sites have been closed or continue to be partially closed, significant number of the youth could not be trained because a lot of funds were re-prioritised to respond to the fight against the pandemic. The economy is also under severe strain and some businesses had to be closed and consequently a significant number of jobs have been lost. What we are learning from Covid-19 pandemic, is that the future of work is dramatically changing to meet the changing market trends that we must build on. New skills and technology are needed to revive the economy of the country.

Today, we will hear about the work being done by social partners, led by the NECT to ensure the quality of schooling and achieve excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) subjects aligned with the HRD Strategy Outcome 1. The international speakers will also share the best international practice that will include the successes, challenges and I

believe as a country we will learn from these. Distinguished guests, allow me to invite the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation to welcome the Deputy President to give us a keynote address and open the 4th HRDC Summit.

I believe that we will have a great day ahead of fruitful discussions focusing on building the foundation for learning for a transformed economy and society which will take the work of the Human Resource Development Council forward.

I thank you.