

# Varsities urged to instil entrepreneur skills

## Many graduates face joblessness

By **Yoliswa Sobuwa**

University leaders and academics say depressed levels of growth, rapidly changing needs of work and education that is failing to adapt to the needs is to blame for graduate unemployment.

As a result universities were advised to encourage students to be entrepreneurs instead of looking for employment.

The fifth national entrepreneurship development in higher education lekgotla 2021 was held at the University of Pretoria (UP).

UP's vice principal: academic Prof Norman Duncan said a 2020 Stats SA report indicates

that “despite having a better chance of being employed, the employment rate of graduates had decreased by 11.5% from the fourth quarter of 2018 to the first quarter of 2019”.

“This is as a result of depressed levels of economic growth, rapidly changing needs of work environment and questions about adeptness of SA universities to respond to the changing need.”

He said universities will have to review and improve and reshape educational offerings to students if they wish to contribute meaningfully to their employment prospects.

“One way of universities in ensuring better life prospects for their graduates is to introduce an entrepreneur mindset and skills that will make our graduates’ ability to participate in the creation of jobs,” he said.



**Hundreds of Eastern Cape unemployed graduates march to the premier's office to demand jobs. / SIBONGILE NGALWA**

Colin Leshou of Small Enterprise Development Agency said entrepreneurship must start at basic education.

Prof Ahmed Bawa, CEO at Universities SA, said graduates need to understand the value of their knowledge.



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