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Title	The Governance of Further Education and Training in South Africa			
Authors	Andrea Juan			
Type of output	Select the appropriate output type from the list below:			
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	Title of monograph/book in which chapter appears			
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Newspaper Article			
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Submitted by:	Andrea Juan			
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Pretoria Office
134 Pretorius Street, Pretoria, 0002, South Africa. Private Bag X41, Pretoria, 0001, South Africa.
Tel: +27 12 302 2177 Fax: +27 12 302 2041

Cape Town Office
Plein Park Building, 69-83 Plein Street, Cape Town, 8001, South Africa.
Private Bag X9182, Cape Town, 8000, South Africa. Tel: +27 21 466 8000 Fax: +27 21 466 8001

Durban Office
750 Francois Road, Intuthuko Junction, Cato Manor, Durban, 4001, South Africa.
Private Bag X07, Dalbridge, 4014, South Africa. Tel: +27 31 242 5400 Fax: +27 31 242 5401

Port Elizabeth Office
44 Pickering Street, Newton Park, Port Elizabeth, 6055, South Africa.
PO Box 34115, Newton Park, 6055, South Africa. Tel: +27 41 399 8700 Fax: +27 41 399 8711

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The Governance of Further Education and Training in South Africa

Abstract—At present South Africa is faced with a massive skills shortage. In addition to this problem the youth in South Africa exhibit alarmingly high levels of unemployment. Statistics South Africa (2007) reported an unemployment rate of 50% amongst the country's 15-24 year old age group. Through the efforts of the Department of Science and Technology, South Africa is on the path of attempting to become a Knowledge-Based economy. Such an economy relies on the transfer and accumulation of knowledge rather than an over-reliance on commodities. A knowledge based economy rests on a foundation of developing skills within the labour force. Further Education and Training (FET) colleges have been earmarked by the government as producers of skilled labour. The governance of these FET colleges may impact on the ability of the colleges to produce skilled graduates. This in turn impacts on the developmental capacity of the country.

As with any legislation in South Africa, the reform legislation governing the FET sector stemmed from provisions in the Constitution of South Africa (Act 108 of 1996). The Constitution is the highest law of the land and any law inconsistent with the Constitution is invalid. Section 29 (1) of the Constitution entrenches all citizens rights to education. This section provides that: Everyone has the right to a basic education including adult basic education and to further education, which the state through reasonable measures must make progressively available and accessible. The Constitution embodies the values of redress, transformation, equity and equality. By implication, FET legislation must reflect these values.

Besides the democratic need for reform of the FET system, there are also economic reasons for reform. FET Colleges are viewed by the government as crucial to the production of a skilled and semi-skilled labour force (Department of Education 1997). The development of such a labour force features prominently in the government's growth and development plans (Crouch and Lombard, 2000).

The South African FET sector has been prone to governance and policy management problems. Academic authors have argued that a contributing factor to the current situation faced by FET colleges has been the poor functioning governance systems within the sector (Wedekind, 2006). These governance problems have prompted the South African Council of Higher Education to go to the extent of labelling FET governance as "catastrophic" (McGrath, 2004:139). The South African government has acknowledged the state of governance of colleges. The government's response to these problems has been to institute full-scale policy overhauls. Each policy change was necessitated by the failures and shortcomings in the preceding regulatory frameworks. Using New Public Management principles and institutional analysis framework, this paper provides an overview of governance policy reforms that have taken place between 1994 and 2006. The paper also examines how these reforms have been implemented in FET colleges, and whether current governance practices and processes align with the legislations. Conclusions are made regarding the state of governance in FET colleges.

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