

## **STATEMENT ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MS NALEDI PANDOR ON ADDITIONAL 60 RESEARCH CHAIRS FOR THE HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR**

Press Release: 15 February 2012

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Higher Education South Africa (HESA) welcomes the announcement by the Minister of Science and Technology, Ms Naledi Pandor, that a total of 60 new Research Chairs will be awarded to various Higher Education Institutions across South Africa during the 2011/12 and 2013/14 Medium Term Expenditure Framework.

This announcement is a timely reminder of the importance of government support for science and innovation in South Africa's social, economic, environmental and cultural future.

"Given the expansion of the South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI), both in terms of numbers to 154 and participating Higher Education institutions, there is evidence that the Minister of Science and Technology is committed to increasing Government investment in science and innovation and to attracting and retaining excellence in research and innovation in South African universities," Professor Ahmed Bawa, the Chairperson of HESA said.

HESA reaffirms its commitment to supporting investment effort in support of basic research and research training in South Africa's universities. To this end, HESA pledges to work with the Minister of Science and Technology, Government as a whole, and the private sector to achieve greater public and private investment to build a strong national science and innovation system in South Africa.

"Both public and private investment in research, science and innovation is needed if South Africa is to keep up with the accelerating pace of growth of new knowledge and its application around the world", Professor Bawa added.

The announcement by the Minister will go a long way in supporting our universities to increase research and innovation outputs, and strengthen the human capital pipeline of the next generation of researchers.

*About Higher Education South Africa*

Higher Education South Africa (HESA) is the leadership body that represents the 23 public Higher Education Institutions. Led by the Vice-Chancellors of these universities, HESA acts to support and advance the higher education sector in South Africa.

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For more information contact: [admin@hesa.org.za](mailto:admin@hesa.org.za)