

EDUCATION MINISTRY REFUTES ALLEGATIONS ABOUT BLACK AND COLOURED LEARNERS

THE Department of Basic Education has refuted media reports that claim that black and coloured youths are less likely to complete university today than in previous years.

“These statements are quite simply incorrect as well as misleading about the story of educational outcomes in South Africa over time,” the Department said in a statement.

“On the contrary, black people have become substantially more likely to access early childhood development, more likely to complete primary school, more likely to complete matric, and more likely to complete a university degree.

“In fact, the number of black graduates per year increased more than 16-fold between 1986 (3 400 graduates) and 2012 (63 000 graduates). This is according to a Stellenbosch University analysis of Higher Education data conducted by Dr Hendrik

van Broekhuizen.

“Just since 2008, the numbers of black matriculants qualifying for university admission has doubled from about 60 000 to 120 000. All of this is by no means to deny that unacceptable levels of inequality on the basis of race still exist. This inequality is glaring whether one looks at the quality of learning achieved by children in specific school grades, or the proportions of youths completing matric or the proportions of youths completing university. In each case, our black

and coloured youths remain at a considerable disadvantage.

“So the story of education in South Africa is one of great historical injustice and inequality, with outcomes that are persistent and will take a long time to change. But part of the story of educational outcomes in South Africa is that pretty much all indicators are moving in the right direction. The narrative that things were somehow better under apartheid or at some time in the past is wholly inaccurate and unhelpful,” the statement concluded.