The challenges faced by South Africa

South Africa's unemployment rate rises to 27.6% in first quarter

Skills gap is hampering businesses' recruitment efforts – PwC report

Basic education failing engineering sector

The quality of the country's basic education is one of the main reasons the engineering sector is struggling to transform.
Skills challenges in SA

- Basic education issues
- Perceived desirable qualifications
- Unemployment of graduates
- Post school education and training
- Technical skills and equipment
- Upskilling existing employees
- Displacements and reskilling
- Disconnect between industry, government and learning institutions
- Duplication of effort
4IR: Opportunities and challenges for South Africa

**Opportunities**
- Decrease inequalities
- Leapfrog traditional developmental steps
- Improved service delivery
- Increased opportunity to access learning and knowledge
- Redefine curricula
- Youth demographic

**Challenges**
- Quantum of possible job losses
- Increasing skills gaps
- Increasing inequality
- Infrastructure and digital infrastructure gaps
- Rate of change vs speed of response
4IR: Addressing skills challenges

• Presidential 4IR commission
  • Digital skills strategy
  • Human resource development strategy
  • Coding and robotics in schools
• BRICS 4IR work stream (PartNIR)
• Research on new sectors and new jobs - identified by organised labour and Setas
• WIFI rollout
• Private companies and learning institutions becoming active in space
BRICS cooperation to solve SA skills challenges

• New curricula and standards
• Funding skills programmes
• Tvet network
• PartNIR agreement
• Exchange programmes
  • Students
  • Teachers
  • Equipment and technology
  • Knowledge exchange
Possible BRICS collaboration projects

• Research project on future skills curriculum
• Joint curriculum development
• BRICS Skills Colleges
• Funding support
• Government support for teacher exchange across BRICS for these colleges
• Skills infrastructure – PartNIR project
THANK YOU

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