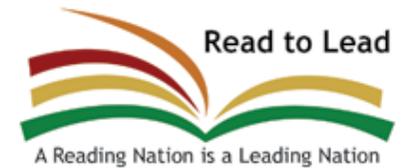




basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



NEWSLETTER

Celebrating 100 Issues of *Thuto*



Today we celebrate the 100th issue of our newsletter and it fills me with pride to take a reflective walk through what the country has achieved in education.

We are not only celebrating our newsletter, but this year also marks 20 years since the National Schools Act was enacted into law. This piece of legislation has made it possible for Government and the Department to implement the country's apex priority, and changed the lives and futures of our nation's children.

There is much to be celebrated since the establishment of the Department of Basic Education under the leadership of Minister Angie Motshekga.



It is under her leadership that the Department formed crucial partnerships, and now works in close collaboration with stakeholders across the sector through the formation of the National Education Collaboration Trust. This progressive grouping of government, Non-Governmental Organisations and private companies has made it possible for the country to make progress in a number of areas.

The policies we have put in place as the Department of Basic Education have also brought dignity to millions of our learners and educators alike.

The Department, however, faces challenges as it continues to deliver quality education to the millions of learners across the country. These challenges are definitely not insurmountable. Government's success lies in the men and women who work tirelessly every day to deliver and help achieve common goals and objectives. Without you, colleague, none of what I have mentioned earlier would have been possible. Our strength is in the hard work and dedication you demonstrate in your work. An integral part of our work remains the effective communication on what we are doing as a Department and how learners, teachers and the general public can benefit. This will need to be done consistently!

Nelson Mandela said, "After climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb." With all our achievements as a Department and the sector at large there is much more to be done and we can only get better from here.

Mr Elijah Mhlanga, Chief Director: Media Liaison and National and Provincial Communication

President Jacob Zuma visits Marhulana Primary School in Tembisa

President Jacob Zuma visited Marhulana Primary School in Tembisa, Ekurhuleni on 20 July 2016 to engage with school leadership, parents and learners in respect of challenges faced by the community. The President, accompanied by the Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga, also distributed blankets and school bags to the 695 learners at the school.

Minister Motshekga used the opportunity to stress the importance of the four-year Ministerial *Read to Lead Campaign*, which aims at improving learner outcomes as anchored in the *National Development Plan (NDP)*. The main objective of the *Read to Lead Campaign* is to ensure that all learners are able to demonstrate age appropriate levels of reading by 2019. The Campaign is a response to national, regional and international studies that have indicated that South African children are not able to read at expected levels, and are unable to execute tasks that demonstrate key skills associated with Literacy.

“As the DBE we have come to a deliberate determination that in order to improve literacy and reduce the number of learner drop outs, we must provide fully functioning libraries in our schools. I am happy to report that in our quest to improve learner outcomes through reading, last year, to mark Nelson Mandela International Day, we launched an ambitious programme to have 1 000 school libraries in all needy schools per year, from 2015 until 2019. We are grateful for the support we have received from the private sector, international organisations and all sectors of society. Getting young people to read and write for school, for leisure, and for the world of work, is a critical aspect of the development of the social fabric of our country. The Department is currently steering the formation of Reading Clubs, Spelling Bee projects as well as Book Flood Campaigns throughout the country. We need to ensure that South Africa becomes a reading nation,” concluded the Minister.



Minister Jeff Radebe opens South African exhibition stand at the 21st International AIDS Conference



Minister in the Presidency, Mr Jeff Radebe, officially opened the South African exhibition stand during the 21st International AIDS Conference in Durban on 19 July 2016. Various government departments exhibited a wealth of information related to HIV counselling, testing and treatment at the colourful stand under the banner of the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC). The DBE displayed information on the National School Nutrition Programme and Health Promotion. All the material on display at the exhibition stand will be part of a new interactive technology portal named *Phila*, soon to be launched by the Department of Health.

During the launch of the exhibition stand, attended by hundreds of delegates, a high level delegation made up of officials from the Presidency, Health Minister, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, the Deputy Minister of Social Development, Ms Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu, the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Mr Michael Masutha, the Deputy Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Mr Thabang Makwela, KwaZulu-Natal Premier, Mr Willies Mchunu

and representatives from UNAIDS launched the new and improved condom branded as *Max*, which was prompted by a survey of young people about their attitude towards the old *Choice* condoms. The survey found that a new and more exciting brand of condoms was necessary to encourage the regular use of condoms for protection to prevent the spread of HIV.

Minister Motsoaledi reiterated the worrisome fact of a growing number of new HIV infections among young people between 15 to 24 years, especially women. The Minister further called for continued co-operation between the Departments of Health and Basic Education in the fight against new HIV infections amongst school learners.

The 21st International AIDS Conference, which was officially opened by United Nations Secretary-General, Mr Ban Ki-Moon, took place from 18 to 22 July 2016, and was attended by over 18,000 delegates including NGOs, people living with HIV, partners in the education and health sectors, business, funding sponsors, health workers, sex workers and researchers from across the world.

Minister and Deputy Minister of Basic Education hosts Oliver Tambo Debate Series/DBE Roundtable on Assessment

The Minister and Deputy Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga and Mr Enver Surty, hosted a DBE Assessment Roundtable as part of the Oliver Tambo Debate Series on 19 July 2016 at the DBE in Pretoria. The theme for the Roundtable was: *Basic Education + Effective Assessment = Inclusive Growth; How assessment can play a role*. The commissions focussed on the following areas of discussion: national assessment; classroom assessment; examinations; examinations; and technology in assessment.

The Roundtable Discussion, which brought together a broad spectrum of leading assessment specialists and various education stakeholders, was aimed at developing an integrated framework for improved learner assessment in the GET and FET band. The event also created a platform for consolidating an integrated national assessment framework for implementation in South African schools.

Addressing the Assessment Roundtable participants, Minister Motshekga said that the Department remained committed to broadening the consultation and engagements with key stakeholders in addressing a number of the challenges that confront Government in improving quality education. “We believe strongly that partnership in education will yield positive results towards our common vision of building a strengthened and improved system of assessment with greater opportunities for teaching, learning and remediation leading to a *Better Life for All*,” remarked Minister Motshekga. The Minister further thanked the Oliver and Adelaide Tambo Foundation, the European Union, the UNDP, the Wits School of Governance and the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation for their enormous contribution in making the Assessment Roundtable a success.

Click on the below link to read the full article:

<http://www.education.gov.za/ArchivedDocuments/ArchivedArticles/MinisterandDeputyMinisterofBasicEducationhostsOliverTamboDebateSeriesDBERoundtableonAssessment.aspx>



DBE and AVBOB celebrate Nelson Mandela International 2016 Day by improving the lives of Hebron learners

Minister Angie Motshekga, together with AVBOB Group Chief Executive Officer, Mr Frik Rademan, spent the morning of 18 July 2016 at Tlhasedi Primary School at Hebron in the North West Province. The partnership between the DBE and AVBOB commenced in 2014 with a mission of delivering 40 container libraries to disadvantaged schools across South Africa.

A milestone of 33 libraries has already been reached and the new library at Tlhasedi Primary School will play a fundamental role in cultivating a culture of reading amongst the learners. The provision of libraries in public schools, particularly at primary level, remains one of the most critical approaches aimed at encouraging early grade teaching in our schools.

In her address, Minister Motshekga said that the new library will definitely enable the DBE to address challenges of literacy and numeracy in the country. The Minister called upon parents to continue to play a pivotal role in ensuring that learners read on a daily basis. Minister Motshekga emphasised that adults should develop a reading habit in order to encourage children to read. When compared to other developed countries, South Africa continues to fall short in terms of reading culture. Research that the DBE embarked on revealed that 95% of South African citizens are non-readers whereas 5% of the population are advanced readers. The Minister informed members of the community that, although the Department has made headway in achieving access to basic education, there are challenges of redress, equity, quality and efficiency that still need to be addressed. Minister Motshekga also reported that the learner repetition rate in schools present the country with major social challenges. Government will need to work hard to resolve this issue.

Click on the below link to read the full article:

<http://www.education.gov.za/ArchivedDocuments/ArchivedArticles/DBEandAVBOBcelebrateNelsonMandelaInternational2016DaybyimprovingthelivesofHebronlearners.aspx>



Deputy Minister Surty hands over library in support of 1000 Libraries Campaign

Deputy Minister Enver Surty handed over a mobile library, donated by Imperial Holdings and Ukhamba Community Development Trust, at the Model Primary School in Lenasia on 20 July 2016 in support of the commemoration of Nelson Mandela International Day, the *1000 Schools Libraries Campaign* and the *Read to Lead Campaign*. This was the 20th library donated by Imperial Holdings and Ukhamba Community Development Trust, in response to Minister Angie Motshekga's call to all social partners to support the *1000 Schools Libraries Campaign* and the *Read to Lead Campaign*.

The Departments' partnership with Imperial Holdings and the Ukhamba Community Development Trust, underscores President Jacob Zuma's contention that *education is a societal issue*. The Imperial Holdings and Ukhamba Community Development Trust have identified 23 schools in the Gauteng and the Northern Cape Provinces to be provided with resources, with approximately 20,000 learners benefiting from this noble initiative. To date the monetary value of the contribution is approximately R7,500,000,00.



Buffalo City learners dish it out on Mandela Day

The Nestlé Healthy Kids Programme, which was hosted in partnership with the DBE, celebrated Nelson Mandela International Day with over 3,200 learners from 11 schools in Mdantsane in the Eastern Cape Province on 20 July 2016. Although the celebration took place at Londolozani Junior Primary School, other Buffalo City education district schools such as Dickson Dyani, Zuzile, Isibane, Gcobani, Thembeke, Nokulunga, Fikile Gaushe, Luzuko, Shad Mashologu and Fikile Bengu Primary Schools also joined in the activities.

In commemoration of Nelson Mandela International Day, DBE officials, Nestlé East London factory volunteers and educators from the 11 schools pledged their 67 Minutes by facilitating different *sports clinics* for the learners. In accordance with the DBE's Nutrition Education Programme, all activities were also supported by information sharing sessions and discussions about good nutrition, which were facilitated through a learner-tailored workbook and forms part of the curriculum.

The Nestlé Healthy Kids Programme is designed to include a chef's demonstration where a trained chef and food handlers teach the learners about different food groups and how they should be prepared. The learners are also taught about the importance of drinking enough clean water; managing food portions and making sure that their utensils are clean at all times when they are preparing food. Finally, the learners took part in mass participation physical activity demonstrations which included basketball, volleyball, soccer, netball, running, hoola hoops and skipping rope. The aim of the Programme is to promote healthy lifestyles through good nutrition initiatives targeted at school-going children between the ages of 6 to 12 years.

"The DBE, through the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) is committed to making a real difference to the lives of learners by providing nutritious meals to more than 9 million learners on all school days," said Dr Granville Whittle, the Deputy Director-General of Social Mobilisation and Support at the DBE. "The Minister of Basic Education launched the National School Deworming Programme in February 2016 which is intended to maximise the nutrient uptake of NSNP meals, leading to improved health and educational outcomes. Through the *Healthy Kids Programme*, we are achieving even more in promoting and maintaining the healthy and active lives of learners," Dr Whittle added. Key to this programme is the promotion of healthy eating habits, understanding of a balanced diet, and the importance of physical activity as part of a child's daily routine.



The DBE and the Department of Sport and Recreation South Africa host the 2016 South African Schools National Championships in KwaZulu-Natal Province

The DBE, in partnership with the Department of Sport and Recreation South Africa (SRSA), hosted the 2016 South African Schools National Championships in the KwaZulu-Natal Province from 10 to 15 July 2016. The South African Schools Sport National Championships sees participants from provincial school teams, including participants with disabilities, participate in different sporting codes and indigenous games. This initiative has increased opportunities for learners from various schools to participate in an integrated national multi-coded sporting event.

This year marks the first year of the seasonal SA Schools National Championships. These seasonal games will see learners compete in seven priority sporting codes such as chess, football, hockey, netball, rugby, tennis and volleyball, as well as indigenous games such as ukuqheke and khokho. This is a good mixture of internationally recognised sporting codes and national indigenous games. The vision for indigenous games is to develop and to take their rightful place in the international sports arena.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, Deputy Minister of Sport and Recreation, Mr Gert Oosthuizen, called on all participants to set an example and to influence their peers to also participate in sport. Gauteng Province was the first place winner with 68 medals, the Western Cape Province took second place with 67 medals and KwaZulu-Natal Province finished in third place with 41 medals. In conclusion, Mr Oosthuizen thanked the learners from the various schools and the teachers who coached them, as well as all the provincial officials who dedicated time and effort to the Championships for their support.

The National Championships provides an opportunity for talented athletes to be identified and for their talent to be nurtured. 6,200 young people participated in the Championships with the support of 480 technical officials and 80 volunteers.



Shuga South Africa Mass Media HIV Prevention and Sexuality Education Programme conceptualised in partnership with the MTV Stay Alive Foundation

MTV Shuga South Africa, a 360-Mass Media HIV Prevention and Sexuality Education Programme, conceptualised in partnership with the MTV Stay Alive Foundation, was launched at the Denis Hurley Centre in Durban on 17 July 2016 in support of the DBE *Integrated Strategy on HIV, STIs and TB 2012-2016* (the HIV Strategy). The aim of the Programme is to see concrete, positive actions taken among adolescents to reduce the incidence rates of HIV. The launch announcement involved the public screening of two episodes for 300 young people of school-going age and a panel discussion between education partners. The event was hosted as part of the 21st International AIDS Conference, which commenced on 18 July 2016.

Shuga is a television soap opera that was first aired in November 2009 on MTV Base as part of an initiative dubbed *MTV Staying Alive Ignite!* Its first two seasons were commissioned by MTV Networks Africa in association with The MTV Staying Alive Foundation, The US President's Emergency Fund for Aids Relief (PEPFAR), the Partnership for an HIV-Free Generation (HFG) and the Government of Kenya, as part of a multimedia campaign to spread the message about responsible sexual behaviour and tolerance. Season 3 of the series was broadcast via 88 television stations across the world, with estimated household viewers of over 550 million. The DBE is now intending to work with the MTV Staying Alive Foundation to produce Season 5 and 6 in South Africa. The DBE intends to do this in close partnership with key stakeholders, including the business sector, the NGO sector and other Government Departments. Some of the current partners include the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, UNICEF and PEPFAR. Key messaging will include a focus on condom use, HIV counselling and testing, learner pregnancy, sexual diversity and gender identity, risk perception, violence, alcohol and substance abuse.

DBE and partners conduct a course on Managing and Leading Education Change with Digital Technologies to improve e-Learning in schools

The face-to-face part of the blended university-accredited Short Learning Programme (SLP) on *Managing and Leading Education Change with Digital Technologies*, which involved Teacher Centre Managers and e-Learning Specialists, has now been completed and will be followed by three months of virtual training until the completion of the NQF level 8 Post Graduate Diploma course. The three-day course was organised by the DBE in partnership with UNICEF, Microsoft and Vodacom at the University of Johannesburg from 11 to 14 July 2016. The training was aimed at strengthening the implementation of Information Communication and Technology (ICT) to equip learners with the necessary skills in line with the 21st century.

Click on the below link to read the full article:

<http://www.education.gov.za/ArchivedDocuments/ArchivedArticles/DBEandpartnersconductacourseonManagingandLeadingEducationChange.aspx>



Four top performing schools receive training on the Sangari iBox to improve quality learning and teaching through the use of ICT

Eight teachers from four top performing schools across various provinces were trained to become effective users of the Sangari iBox and Clickers awarded to them during the Ministerial Education Excellence Awards held at the Presidential Guest House earlier this year. The training took place at the DBE in Pretoria on 07 July 2016. Westerford High School from the Western Cape Province, Eunice High School from the Free State Province and Danville Park Girls' High School from the KwaZulu-Natal Province were the winners of the Top Performing Public School category. Jan Kriel High School from the Western Cape Province took the prize in the Best Performing LSEN School category.

The iBox is a device with a motherboard, a projector, a sound system and an interactive whiteboard. It has been designed to bring together all the elements that an educator needs in order to transform their classroom into a digital, multi-media, 21st century classroom. The device is also a teaching aid that assists educators with their daily roles, including: researching the content that they have to use to teach; designing well-structured learning programmes; and to plan lessons with resource-based activities to support learning. Lesson plans, assessments, videotaped lessons and demonstrations of experiments - in line with the CAPS Curriculum, are installed inside the iBox. It also includes wireless features that enable the teacher to move around in the classroom whilst retaining the attention of the learners. The DBE also purchased Clickers for the schools to complement the iBox and to ensure that the testing of learners is quick and more informative. The Clickers will enable teachers to assess the level of understanding by the entire class – on time, as well as check how well individual learners have grasped the lesson - all in real time. The iBox and the Clickers are gadgets that are available separately. The DBE, however, decided to include them as part of the prize to provide real support to these schools.

Basic Education Deputy Director-General for the Planning and Delivery Oversight Unit, Mrs Palesa Tyobeka, said that the iBox is an amazing device; adding that it will turn the winning schools into centres of excellence in their various provinces.



Tales Untold: Taking quality assessment to higher levels

by Dr Mark Chetty



“There is a winner in you. You were created to be successful; to accomplish your goals, to leave your mark on this generation. You have greatness in you. The key is to get it out.” (Joel Osteen)

“As I reflect on recent achievements, I am proudly encouraged to *keep calm and take God at His Word*. My faith keeps me renewed in mind and spirit to approach each day with a positive and peaceful attitude. In 2015, an important milestone in my education career was achieved. With much appreciation I welcomed, amidst pomp and ceremony, an honoured recognition from Minister Angie Motshekga, a 20-year long-service award for continued service in education.

A significant part of my service in education has been to make and manage meaningful contributions towards the improvement of quality assessment offered to South African children. For the past 16 years, I have had the privilege of being employed in this important area of work, considered by practitioners to be the *mirror* of achievements and by policy makers to be the measure education success. Prior to joining the DBE, I was employed in the Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) as a Deputy Chief Education Specialist in the area of systemic evaluations. During the years at the GDE, I was drawn to the area of learner assessment, both in terms of quality assurance and policy making. I joined the DBE on promotion to the Systemic Evaluation Unit which later became National Assessments allowing me to continue working within my field of interest and become an integral member of a small but dynamic team managing national assessments to approximately 9 million learners.

There have been many highlights working on programmes such as the Annual National Assessment (ANA) and international assessment studies such as the Southern and East African Consortium for Monitoring Educational Quality (SACMEQ). The standout was being a co-author on the *SACMEQ III Country Report* and being part of the South African national research team that was awarded the SACMEQ research medal in 2011. I have always been driven by the need to compliment work with research and empirical evidence that can take quality assessment to higher levels. This has been a dedicated focus of my research at both Masters and PhD levels. To this end, I recently completed my PhD in assessment in education through the University of Witwatersrand. Although managing work, study, and family matters is a complicated mix and the journey is often gruelling and difficult, I take courage that the thesis will positively contribute towards an improved understanding of the assessment landscape in South African schools and add to the international literature discourse in this field.

In the years to come, I aim to remain committed to the noble cause of uplifting the standards in education through my contributions in research and managing critical assessment programmes in the DBE. To this I am grateful to the Department for creating enabling environments for work and research to creatively complement one another. Recently, the first ever Assessment Dialogue Session to be held at the Department, was launched on 20 April 2016 at the DBE in Pretoria by the Director-General. The rationale behind promoting an assessment dialogue is to create an enabling environment that harnesses a rich discourse among appointed officials within relevant units in specialised areas of assessment. I am glad to be a leader in this process.

Finally, my family is my biggest motivation and they keep me wonderfully grounded. I'm in-debt to my managers at the DBE for always pushing me to the next level. It's important to be the best you can be and stay true to your principles, and remember.”

To finish the moment, to find the journey's end in every step of the road, to live the greatest number of good hours, is wisdom (Ralf Waldo Emerson, 1855)

New York University students attend Summer Study Abroad Programme in South Africa

A group of 20 Masters' Degree students, from New York University (NYU) in the United States of America (USA), are visiting the DBE as part of a study tour. The visit also included a seminar with DBE officials to share information on basic education issues which took place on 15 July 2016. The South African National Commission for UNESCO collaborates with the NYU through the programme, under the leadership of Professor Teboho Moja.

Casey Kreitman, one of the NYU students said that her visit to the DBE was an eye-opener, adding that her research will help her to gain more knowledge on various schooling systems. Another student, Ms Alexandria Martinez, sees the visit as an opportunity to learn and exchange ideas with DBE officials on issues of education equality and social cohesion.

The Secretary-General of the South African National Commission for UNESCO, Mr Carlton Mukwevho, himself a former NYU student, indicated that the National Commission for UNESCO provides support to the annual programme, by co-ordinating meetings between the NYU students and DBE officials in the various areas of interest and research. The programme provides students with an opportunity to examine South Africa's post-apartheid social and educational reforms. In addition, the students undertake visits to schools, universities, and communities in rural and urban areas. "This provides the students with an opportunity to learn from people who are grappling with reform issues on a daily basis; to explore the country's diverse cultures; and to gain an understanding of the challenges faced by policy makers. Researchers, government officials, and other experts also share their own experiences with the students in the form of lectures and discussions," said Mr Mukwevho.

The NYU programme also opens up opportunities for the students to gain an understanding of international agencies in education, such as UNESCO, that deal with educational issues from a global perspective.



Regional Round-up



More than R2,2 million has been raised over a three-week period to get schooling in Vuwani back on track. 97 South African men and women and nine organisations have lent a hand in support of the community of Vuwani. Security is still a matter of concern in the area and 71 schools have not yet resumed learning and teaching. The National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT) continues to work with the district, provincial and national offices of education to monitor the situation and to explore ways to make educational interventions. A team comprising of district officials and NECT staff are on standby to help the affected schools and their communities to develop and adopt a social compact to facilitate deeper community reflection on the impact on schooling and secure community inputs in rebuilding and supporting the schools. The resources already contributed will go a long way in helping the schooling community of Vuwani to get back on track.

Upcoming Events

- 18 – 22 July 2016: The 21st International AIDS Conference will be held at the iNkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre Complex in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal Province
- 22 July 2016: Deputy Minister to hand-over Motaung Primary School in Ventersdorp, North West Province
- 22 – 24 July 2016: Youth Citizens Action Programme (YCAP) at Roodevallei in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 23 July 2016: Ministerial visit to Hawston, Western Cape Province 25 July 2016: Ministerial visit to Delft, Western Cape Province
- 27 July 2016: The official hand-over of Bungu Primary School in Nyandeni, Eastern Cape Province
- 28 July 2016: Kha Ri Gude Graduation Ceremony, Sekhing Community Hall in the Dr Ruth Mompati District, North West Province
- 01 August 2016: The official hand-over of Loding Primary School in Loding Village, Mpumalanga Province
- 09 August 2016: National Women's Day
- 18 August 2016: The iNkosi Albert Luthuli Competition KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Rounds
- 19 August 2016: 2016 Amended Senior Certificate Examination results will be made available to candidates who wrote at schools/registered examination centres in centralised areas
- 20 August 2016: The iNkosi Albert Luthuli Competition Gauteng Provincial Rounds
- 22 August 2016: 2016 Amended Senior Certificate Examination results will be made available to candidates who wrote at schools/registered examination centres located in remote areas
- 25 – 26 August 2016: Minister meets with District Directors in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 31 August 2016: The iNkosi Albert Luthuli Competition Eastern Cape Provincial Rounds 03 September 2016: The iNkosi Albert Luthuli Competition Northern Cape Provincial Rounds
- 03 September 2016: The iNkosi Albert Luthuli Competition Western Cape Provincial Rounds 09 September 2016: The iNkosi Albert Luthuli Competition Free State Provincial Rounds
- 10 September 2016: The iNkosi Albert Luthuli Competition North West Provincial Rounds
- 24 September 2016: Heritage Day
- October 2016: Teacher Appreciation Month
- 01 – 02 October 2016: iNkosi Albert Luthuli Oral History Programme and Gala Dinner
- 03 – 07 October 2016: Heritage Education Schools Outreach Programme, North West Province
- 05 October 2016: World Teachers' Day