



**basic education**

Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**THUTO**



## NEWSLETTER

# DBE and the Motsepe Foundation launch R117,5 million partnership to nurture learner talents



The Department of Basic Education (DBE), together with the Motsepe Foundation, officially launched and activated a R117,5 million partnership at Sandton International Convention Centre on 12 April 2016. The ten year sponsorship agreement seeks to develop school football, choral and traditional music and netball nationwide. This initiative is also supported by the Departments of Sport and Recreation SA and Arts and Culture.

During her welcoming remarks, the co-founder and CEO of the Motsepe Foundation, Dr Precious Moloi-Motsepe, said: "Sports and music make an important contribution to the growth and development of our youth and helps them become good role models. I am excited that we will be sponsoring netball, which is very popular with girls in the rural and urban areas."

During the first five years of the sponsorship, an amount of R55 million will be allocated to the Kay Motsepe Schools Football Cup, the ABC Motsepe Schools Eisteddfod, Choral and Traditional Music and the Kay Motsepe Schools Netball Cup. For the next five years (2021 to 2025) the Motsepe Foundation will contribute another R62,5 million towards this initiative. All 25 000 public and private South African schools in both rural and urban areas have been invited to participate in all three competitions.

The Kay Motsepe Schools Football Cup has been celebrated for the past ten years and is regarded as having the largest prize money for schools football globally; with the winning school receiving R1 million from a total annual prize money of R3,4 million. The school that comes second will receive R600,000 and the third place winner will receive R400,000. The winning schools in each of the nine provinces receive prize money to the value of R100,000 each. The South African Football Association (SAFA) has been supporting the Motsepe Foundation and the DBE during the past years.

Click on below link to read the full article:

<http://www.education.gov.za/DBEandtheMotsepeFoundationlaunch/tabid/990/Default.aspx>

# Imbizo Focus Week yields positive results



On 10 April 2016, Deputy Minister of Basic Education, Mr Enver Surty, visited a computer centre at Phetogane Secondary School as part of a National Imbizo Focus Week closing event in Thaba Nchu, Free State Province. The visit to Thaba Nchu is a follow-up to an Imbizo held by the Deputy Minister of Communications, Ms Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams, during the 2015 Imbizo programme when she conducted a Youth Imbizo and Information Day at Albert Moroka High School. She pledged to award 25 learners with bursaries and IT equipment to Thaba Nchu High Schools. The Thaba Nchu area has ten secondary schools and all of these schools have received Information Communication Technologies (ICT) infrastructure of which seven schools are already connected to Wi-Fi. Fifty learners from different schools have each received bursaries worth R70,000 for tuition fees and prescribed text books.

“I have seen significant developments made as a result of the government programme known as the National Imbizo Focus Week. It is a fundamental programme with a commitment to regularly interact with communities and ensure that service delivery blockages are addressed speedily,” said the Deputy Minister. “I would like to thank our stakeholders and partners for their enormous contributions. This Imbizo programme relies on active citizen participation; we all have a role to play to move South Africa forward,” concluded Deputy Minister Surty. ICT are an essential tool that can advance education and equip learners and teachers with computer skills.



# First Early Childhood Development Roundtable to be hosted by Minister Motshekga

Minister Angie Motshekga will be hosting the first Early Childhood Development (ECD) Roundtable on 25 April 2016 at the DBE in Pretoria. The theme of the meeting is the *Consolidation of Gains Made in ECD Towards Meeting the Goals of the National Development Plan*.

Although there have been great strides made in relation to access to ECD provisioning in the country, the quality of programmes remain a challenge. The key challenges impacting on the quality of provisioning include the following: lack of coherent legislative framework; under-qualified teachers with poor conditions of employment; and varied quality of curriculum implementation. The development of the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) for Children from Birth to 4 years by the DBE is one of activities aimed at ensuring that children in different settings receive quality ECD programmes. The NCF is a working document, which gives guidance to parents and other caregivers on how to create environments that are responsive to learning and development for very young children. It will also help to evaluate and support programmes that are offered by daycare centres and other ECD centres. It is informed by South African Legislation and Policies which promotes the belief that the child is an important player in his/her own education and development.

The key objectives of the roundtable are to create an opportunity to share the strategic direction of Government and the sector; to create a platform for stakeholders to make a contribution strengthening the Integrated Plan on ECD; to create an avenue for stakeholders to make inputs in the Improvement plan in order to improve the quality of ECD provisioning; to generate ideas on strategies for effective co-ordination of efforts, resources, and expertise to maximise impact; to strengthen strategic partnerships between government departments, NGOs, the private sector, national and international donors; and to make contributions to strengthen the development and the implementation of the sector plan.





# DBE co-hosts Regional Seminar on Social, Financial and Entrepreneurship Education under the theme Creating Inclusive and Sustainable Communities

The DBE, in partnership with the Banking Association South Africa (BASA), the StarSaver Programme and Aflatoun International, co-hosted the Regional Seminar on Social, Financial and Entrepreneurship Education at the DBE in Pretoria from 07 to 08 April 2016. The seminar was intended to promote regional dialogue and strategies on how to align social education, financial literacy and entrepreneurship education in schools with the Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Global Action Programme (GAP), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), *Education 2030* and the National Development Plan (NDP) with a common vision of establishing a Southern African Development Community (SADC) Regional Expert Network on social, financial and entrepreneurship education.

The BASA is a not-for-profit industry body representing all registered banks in South Africa (32 member banks) and is the Secretariat of the SADC Banking Association. The BASA works collaboratively with its members to enable progressive, responsive, profitable, competitive, responsible and sustainable banking. Since 2008, BASA financial literacy programmes on teaching children to save, now known as The StarSaver™ Programme, has reached 1.5 million learners in just over 3500 schools from grades 4 to 9. BASA provides a platform for robust collaboration and partnership with the DBE and Aflatoun International.

Aflatoun International is a global network organisation with a focus on Child and Youth Social and Financial Education; and a mission to inspire children and youth to socially and economically empower themselves to become agents of change for a more equitable and sustainable future. Aflatoun works through a network of over 160 partners in 116 countries, delivering age appropriate educational curricula.

Click on the below link to read the full article:

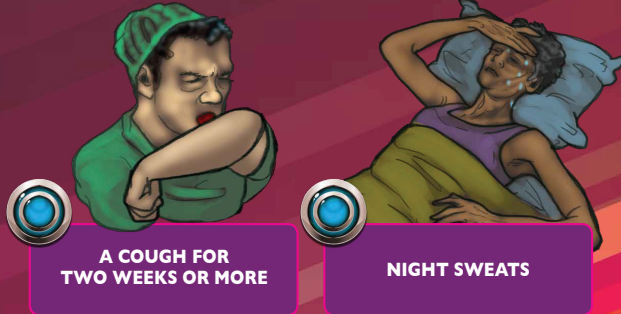
<http://www.education.gov.za/DBEcohostsRegionalSeminar/tabid/991/Default.aspx>



# The DBE is united to end TB in South African schools

PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE

DO YOU HAVE ANY OF THESE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS?



A COUGH FOR TWO WEEKS OR MORE

NIGHT SWEATS



UNEXPLAINED LOSS OF WEIGHT

FEVER

VISIT YOUR NEAREST CLINIC IF YOU HAVE ANY OF THESE SYMPTOMS AND GET FREE TESTING FOR TB AND HIV.

IF YOU ARE FOUND THAT YOU HAVE TB START YOUR TB TREATMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

TAKE YOUR TREATMENT FOR 6 MONTHS AND GET CURED FROM TB!



The DBE will commemorate World Tuberculosis (TB) Day on 20 April 2016 at Deben Primary School, Kathu, in the John Taolo Gaetsewe (JTG) District, Northern Cape Province. The province was selected as it has very limited intervention programmes at its disposal and if left unattended, this may lead to high infection rates. In addition, the JTD District is one of the priority districts with a high TB burden and Deben Primary School, in particular, is located within a peri-mining community. Mining communities are more vulnerable to TB infection due to risk factors such as silica dust exposure, poor infection control measures and migration associated with mining activities.

The global theme for World TB Day was “*Unite to end TB*”. In line with this theme, the DBE identified a theme that is also aligned to the National Strategic Plan for HIV, STIs and TB: 2012-2016: *Zero TB Infections, Zero TB Deaths, Zero Stigma and Discrimination: I am Kicking TB in My Lifetime*.

The core concept for World TB Day is to create awareness and open a conversation in schools about TB prevention, treatment and care, TB and HIV coinfection and to drive home the message that TB is a curable disease. Learners will also participate in various TB-themed activities ranging from dialogues to poetry, drama, TB artwork, as well as Life Orientation activities, demonstrating their understanding of the theme. In addition to the commemorative event, the Northern Cape and other provinces will also engage in TB awareness activities during April 2016 and beyond, until a new theme is identified in 2017. In her message to learners, educators, parents/caregivers and officials on the commemoration of World TB Day 2016, Minister Angie Motshekga called upon everyone to commemorate World TB Day 2016 by supporting

national and community driven efforts towards the prevention of TB, as well as eradicating stigma and discrimination in the Department and in schools; encouraging and supporting schools to participate in varied activities under the theme “*Zero TB Infections, Zero TB Deaths, Zero Stigma and Discrimination: I am Kicking TB in My Lifetime*”, throughout March and April 2016 and beyond; partnering with key TB stakeholders such as *KICK TB*, the South African National Tuberculosis Association (SANTA) and local TB Ambassadors, amongst others, to implement ongoing TB campaigns and TB screening in schools; and supporting the full implementation of the Care and Support Programmes in schools.



# UNESCO Post General Conference Stakeholders' meeting

The 38<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNESCO General Conference was held in Paris, France from 03 to 18 November 2015. The Constitution of the South African National Commission for UNESCO specifies that the Commission should convene a National Conference every two years, and not more than four months after the General Conference of UNESCO for the purpose of receiving the report of the Chairperson of the Commission, and to discuss the activities of UNESCO; brief participants on the resolutions of the General Conference of UNESCO; and to plan Commission activities for the period leading up to the next General Conference of UNESCO.

The National Commission Secretariat is therefore planning a national Post General Conference Stakeholders' meeting to take place on 29 April 2016, at the Department of Science and Technology in Pretoria. The meeting will be attended by representatives of stakeholders in Education, Science, Culture and Communication, including the Commission's Cooperating Organisations associated with the Commission. One of the main items on the agenda of the meeting will be 15-minute presentations by members of the South African Delegation to the 38<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNESCO General Conference.

Each delegate will deliver a presentation on the deliberations in the commissions that they attended, highlighting the Draft Resolutions adopted, and their implications for South Africa, within the context of the Government's priorities in Education, Science, Culture and Communication. The delegates will also be expected to make recommendations for improving South Africa's future participation in the General Conference.



# Call for schools to register for the 2016 DBE Spelling Bee



In support of improved Literacy results, the DBE introduced a Spelling Bee programme in schools. As part of the *Integrated National Literacy and Numeracy Strategy: A Whole School Approach*, the Department successfully hosted the first Spelling Bee on 10 October 2014 in Pretoria to improve learners' performance in languages, especially in English. This year's National Spelling Bee Championships will be taking place in Pretoria on 01 October 2016. The Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) will be conducting workshops for registered schools during April 2016 to prepare for the competition. Thereafter, the district competitions will be taking place during June and the provincial competitions during August 2016.

Erin Sloane, a learner from Greenfields Girls' Primary School in the Western Cape was the champion speller of the year at the 2015 National Spelling Bee championship held at Sci-Bono Discovery Centre in Johannesburg on 10 October 2015. Her winning word was "manoeuvre". Each province sent three champion spellers to compete at the National championships. After competing at provincial level at various spelling bees across the country, the 27 champion spellers within each province were identified to compete at the national level. Apart from the top three winners, the 24 spellers were rewarded for their commitment and dedication throughout the competition; each walking away with a R300 voucher, goodie bags and a medal from the AVBOB Foundation. The 2015 National Spelling Bee was made possible by the DBE, UNISA, SABC, Spell It South Africa and Camp I Am.

A call is hereby made for all schools to encourage learners to participate in the Spelling Bee for 2016. The 2016 spelling words for use by learners can be accessed on the Thutong Portal under the School Enrichment and Sport section and also on the home page of the Departmental website ([www.education.gov.za](http://www.education.gov.za)). The closing date for the competition is **31 May 2016**. Participation in the competition is free. For further enquiries, please contact Mr PJ Ngoepe: Sport and Enrichment on Tel: 012 357 3442 or e-mail: [ngoepe.pj@dbe.gov.za](mailto:ngoepe.pj@dbe.gov.za).

Click on the below link for additional information:

<http://www.education.gov.za/SpellingBee2015/tabid/642/Default.aspx>



# Tales Untold - At the Door of No Return on Gorée Island, in Senegal by Carlton Mukwevho



“South Africa’s successful struggle for freedom and democracy is one of the most dramatic stories of our time. Freedom Day 2016 is a highly significant occasion as South Africans have just celebrated 20 years of the *Constitution* and are celebrating 22 years of Constitutional Democracy. It is also an opportunity to reflect on how South Africa’s democracy and freedom was achieved, the progress made in the past 22 years and how South Africans should work together to implement the National Development Plan (NDP). The theme for the 2016 Freedom Month celebrations is *Celebrating our freedom and democracy through radical economic transformation*.

Designated a World Heritage site by UNESCO in 1978, the House of Slaves and its *Door of No Return* is a museum and memorial to the Atlantic slave trade on Gorée Island, 3 km off the coast of the city of Dakar, Senegal. The island served as a centre for the shipping, into slavery, of an estimated 20 million chained Africans from the mid-1500s to the mid-1800s.

President Barak Obama and First Lady Michelle, like Tata Nelson Mandela in 1991, Pope John Paul II in 1992 and President Bill Clinton in 1998, stood at the very *Door of No Return* when visiting the site in 2013. It is extremely hard not to shed a tear whilst at the door. Mr Sedibe, the guide who assisted me whilst visiting the site in 2008, told me that Tata Mandela, too, shed a tear during his visit. President Obama described his Goree’ visit as *a very powerful moment, and a motivation to stand up for human rights around the world*.


Should an opportunity arise, the *Door of No Return* on Gorée Island in Senegal is much similar to the Robben Island experience and worth visiting.

Freedom and democracy in South Africa has taken a quantum leap from an oppressive regime to one of the most liberal and progressive constitutions in the world, including a *Bill of Rights*, and the establishment of democratic and independent institutions that protect constitutional freedoms, including a Constitutional Court and Chapter 9 institutions. There is a need also to remind South Africans that they should be vigilant and guard against complacency. In this juncture it is worth noting the words of the former President of the Republic of South Africa, Dr Nelson Mandela that *Freedom can never be taken for granted. Each generation must safeguard it and extend it. Your parents and elders sacrificed much so that you should have freedom without suffering what they did. Use this precious right to ensure that the darkness of the past never returns*.


In recent months we have witnessed a wave of racial hatred from those who are opposed to the project of national unity and social cohesion in our country. The struggle for freedom didn’t end in 1994, though significant progress has been made challenges still remain.”



# Department of Home Affairs introduces the Lesotho Special Permit application



**home affairs**  
Department:  
Home Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**Ministry of Home Affairs**  
KINGDOM OF LESOTHO

**LESOTHO SPECIAL PERMIT registration  
commencing 01 March 2016 to 30 June 2016**

Are you a Lesotho national who has been residing illegally in the Republic of South Africa (RSA) before 30 September 2015? You might be eligible to apply for the Lesotho Special Permit (LSP).

**To qualify for the LSP, a Lesotho national must:**

- ☒ Be registered on the National Population Register (NPR) system of Lesotho
- ☒ Have a valid passport or travel document with a unique Lesotho identity (ID) number
- ☒ Ensure that the passport is valid for a period of more than four years. If the validity period of the passport or the travel document is less than four years, the holder will bear the cost of the replacement of both the passport and the LSP into the new passport
- ☒ Lesotho Nationals who are in South Africa for less than 12 months need to have a Police Clearance Certificate from Lesotho that is not more than six-months old
- ☒ Provide proof\* of :
  - Employment or Affidavit from employer – to be issued with an LSP Work Permit
  - Business registration with SARS and CIPRO – to get an LSP Business Permit
  - Registration with an educational institution – for an LSP Study Permit

\*All supporting documents or letters from employer, school or business registration must prove that the applicant has been residing in South Africa before 30 September 2015

**Please Note:**

- Applicants do not need to apply for a South African Police Clearance Certificate. The Department of Home Affairs (DHA) in South Africa will obtain the South African Police Service clearance on behalf of all LSP applicants
- Those applicants who may have fraudulently obtained South African documents need to surrender them to the nearest DHA office and obtain an amnesty letter. The amnesty is until 31 December 2016. List of DHA offices to surrender the documents is available on [www.vfsglobal.com/lsp/southafrica](http://www.vfsglobal.com/lsp/southafrica)

On 01 March 2016, the Department of Home Affairs introduced the Lesotho Special Permit (LSP) application that allows all illegal Lesotho citizens to regularise their stay in South Africa. The LPS permit will be valid for four years from date of issue. Essentially, this process allows Lesotho citizens to receive documents that legalise their stay in the country and is open to Basotho who have been in South Africa only up to 30 September 2015.

As part of the advocacy programme of the LSP campaign, the Department of Home Affairs has been distributing pamphlets and conducting community outreach programmes to areas with Basotho residents to communicate the requirements, but the challenge remains that many of the employers of Basotho nationals have been reluctant in confirming their employment status, which is one of the requirements of the LSP application.

The Department of Home Affairs requests all relevant stakeholders to communicate with employers in various sectors to assist the LSP process by confirming the employment status of their employees. This can be done by writing a letter on a company letter head with details of the employer so as to ensure that the LSP permit is issued efficiently and ahead of the 30 June 2016 deadline for LSP applications.

See the attached fact sheet and a flyer for more information on LSP:

[http://www.vfsglobal.com/lsp/southafrica/Lesotho\\_special\\_permit.html](http://www.vfsglobal.com/lsp/southafrica/Lesotho_special_permit.html)

## Regional Round-up


### Gauteng



**GAUTENG PROVINCE**  
EDUCATION  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Unforeseen technical challenges forced the shutdown of the Gauteng Department of Education’s (GDE) online schools registrations application website, after it went live earlier this week. The applications are for prospective pupils requiring placement for the 2017 school year, with the admission period ending on 07 September 2016. The system crashed due to the site experiencing 600 hits per second, but has now been boosted with additional processing capacity to be able to handle 3000 visitors per second. The registration process will now re-open at 08:00 on 19 April 2016.

### Limpopo



**LIMPOPO**  
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION**

Government welcomed the decision by the Limpopo Department of Education to close the Mpepule Primary School in Lephalale, Limpopo. The decision to close the school was reached after it was discovered that the teachers and pupils at the school had been enduring a life of hardship, sleeping in classrooms as they had no scholar transport to take them home after school. The decision by the Provincial Education Department (PED) portrays that Government is living up to its obligation to protect the rights of children by providing them with an environment that is conducive for learning. The DBE will assist the PED with the necessary technical support in ensuring that the needs of all the learners are prioritised and that the learners and teachers that have been transferred to other schools will be provided with the necessary support.

# Upcoming Events

- 06 April – 10 May 2016: Physical Education Month
- 20 April 2016: The DBE to commemorate World Tuberculosis (TB) Day at Deben Primary School, Kathu, in the John Taolo Gaetsewe (JTG) District, Northern Cape Province
- 25 April 2016: Minister Motshekga to host Early Childhood Development (ECD) Roundtable at the DBE in Pretoria
- 29 April 2016: UNESCO to host post General Conference Stakeholders' meeting at the DBE in Pretoria
- 10 May 2016: Attempt to set the world record for the most people star jumping simultaneously at multiple venues for two consecutive minutes during Physical Education Month
- 10 May 2016: Basic Education Budget Vote Debate in the National Assembly, Parliament Precinct, Cape Town
- 12 May 2016: Basic Education Budget Vote Debate in the National Council of Provinces, Parliament Precinct, Cape Town