

ADVANCING RADICAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION IN THE BASIC EDUCATION SECTOR



DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S 2017 PROVINCIAL ENGAGEMENTS

Taking his cue from the Minister of Basic Education, Mrs AM Motshekga, MP, that in 2017 there should be two provincial engagements with school principals, district and provincial officials, the Director-General of Basic Education, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli began the first phase of day-long meetings in February 2017. The aim of the engagements is mainly to provide detailed province specific analysis of both the 2015 Trends In Mathematics Science Study (TIMSS) report and the National Senior Certificate 2016 results. The desired outcome is that the different layers in the education system will be able to use the analysis to develop credible plans to improve educational outcomes

for their respective provinces. Twenty-seven engagements are planned to reach all provincial and district officials; and both primary and secondary school principals across the nine provinces. In the next semester (Aug - Oct 2017), follow up engagements will take place with the same audience which will then deal with the state of readiness to determine progress made in implementing improvement plans.

The importance and impact of these engagements are not to be underestimated, as they serve to provide direction, leadership, inspiration and a shared vision, geared towards improved quality education, at all levels of the system. Some comments from the participants at the meetings held thus far attest to the value of these engagements:

"The highlight of the engagement for me was the presentation on the performance of different subjects against the performance of the district and the Province"

"I believe in future this opportunity will be created again so that we as principals can be better in education"

"Like in Technology, we have gadgets like K-Maths and IBPs but today it was highlighted that the most important thing is the teacher"

Readers are encouraged to watch this space as feedback from each province will be made available from this platform at the conclusion of the engagements in each province. In this week's edition, the engagement with the Mpumalanga Province is featured.



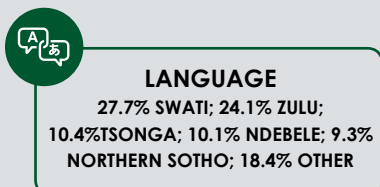
FAST FACTS

MPUMALANGA HAS 3 EDUCATION DISTRICTS:



- Ehlanzeni
- Gert Sibande
- Nkangala

IN 2016 THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCE HAD:



PROVINCIAL ENGAGEMENT IN THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCE



Basic Education Director-General (DG) appeals to the Mpumalanga provincial officials to focus on the basics in order to advance radical socio-economic transformation

The provincial engagements in Mpumalanga took place in two (2) venues, namely, Middleburg and Nelspruit on 16 and 22 February 2017 respectively. The meetings were attended by 2060 participants and these included officials and principals.

“The Director-General’s provincial oversight visit has become an impact filled venture in our typical work as it encourages education stakeholders to focus more on the critical areas of deliverables, including the promotion of a reading culture in schools, improvement of literacy and numeracy and Mathematics participation and success rate,” said the Chief Director for the provincial District coordination unit, Mr Mfana Lushaba during the DG’s visit at John Mdluli Primary School in Nelspruit on 16 February 2017. During this visit, Basic Education Director-General (DG), Mr HM Mveli and his team met with provincial officials and principals from Ehlanzeni and Bohlabela Districts.

The DG began his provincial engagements with District officials and school principals early this year with various education stakeholders in order to improve quality and efficiency within the education sector. Mr Mveli highlighted: “As much as we give access to multitudes of learners in the country, more work still needs to be done to ensure that every learner attains academic success. We need to work together to deliver a diversified curriculum whilst addressing school underperformance, reducing failure, repetition and drop-out rates.

On 22 February 2017, Mr Mveli went back to the province to meet with district officials and school principals from Gert Sibande and Nkangala districts. The meeting took place at Middelburg Hoër Tegniese Skool in Mpumalanga Province.

Nkangala District Director, Mr Jerry Mabena stated that the DG’s visit to the province was helpful because it allowed all education stakeholders to interact on various educational issues: “I have learned that through quality leadership, our schools can become centres of excellence. We, as District Directors and principals, need to deal with issues of absenteeism, school bullying and punctuality within our schooling system.” He further highlighted: “The information that has been shared through this meeting will guide us to make an informed decision when supporting schools across the district.”

Officials and Principals were engaged in three presentations which are: the 2016 National Senior Certificate Results, 2015 Trends in Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) and Progress in Improving Learning Outcomes. The engagement concluded with feedback received from Principals and Officials using two methods of data collection, namely, a questionnaire and semi-structured interviews. Feedback follows on the next pages.



QUALITATIVE FEEDBACK FROM PRINCIPALS AND OFFICIALS

MPUMALANGA
16 & 22 FEB 2017



THE NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE RESULTS (2016)

(a) I learnt:

- The weighting of subjects as per Inclusive Basket Criteria.
- Even though results declined in Mpumalanga there are many of positives including progressed learner passes.
- As schools we should use data to strategise in order to improve.

(b) How will I use what I learnt?

- Support schools in more problematic areas indicated in the diagnostic report.
- Information obtained will be used for planning and how to develop improvement plans.
- Discuss and plan strategies to improve performance in subjects that declined.
- Improve Maths and Science teaching and motivate learners to do Maths and Science.

(c) I require more information on:

- Grade 1-11 report for comparative analysis of circuits.
- How to make schools give fair marks in SBA and how to avoid SBA rejection by Umalusi.
- How to assist educators in GET in Mathematics to deal with individual learners.
- Good strategies for effective camps which can bring better results.
- Inventory and SA SAMS.
- SBA validation and analysis.

(d) Any other comment:

- Extra funds to be allocated to schools in rural areas so that they can intensify their improvement plans.
- The presentation was comprehensive and informative.

- The province needs more support from National across the phases in all the subjects equally without any biasness.
- Good presentation.
- We need to continue with continuous training of Maths and Science educators.
- Government should do something about child headed homes.

TRENDS IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE STUDY (TIMSS) 2015

(a) I learnt:

- Learners assisted by their parents and schools that invest in Maths, results in learners performing well.
- How Maths and Science performance in the country compares with other countries. Mpumalanga is improving the performance.
- There is a high correlation between being bullied and poor performance in Maths and Science in Grade 9.

(b) How will I use what I learnt?

- Put more effort in Maths, Science and Reading.
- Motivate Maths and Science teachers to do more and be courageous that they can do it.

(c) I require more information on:

- Post provisioning models as compared to other countries as well as learner classroom ratios.
- Skills on how to motivate learners to take Maths and Science as subjects.
- How top performing countries teach Maths and Science.

(d) Any other comment:

- More user friendly graphs, could be simplified.
- We need more reader books in order to improve reading skills in schools.
- Great eye opener to see how our province and our country is doing compared to other provinces and countries.



QUALITATIVE FEEDBACK FROM PRINCIPALS AND OFFICIALS cont...

MPUMALANGA
16 & 22 FEB 2017

PROGRESS IN IMPROVING LEARNING OUTCOMES

(a) How will I use what I learnt?

- I should determine performance according to access, redress, equity, efficiency and quality.
- Data is important to make informed decisions.

(b) I require more information on:

- How to deal with progressed learners when you have shortage of teachers.
- How to involve all stakeholders concerned.

(c) Any other comment:

- It was a very good information session.

GENERAL COMMENTS

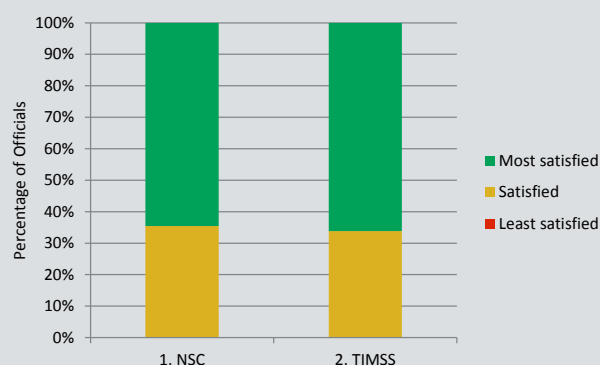
- The DG's comments were inspiring and motivated us to work to improve the results in the province. I appreciated the comments/announcement made by the DG regarding what we need to submit quarterly to national via our province.



QUANTITATIVE FEEDBACK FROM PRINCIPALS AND OFFICIALS

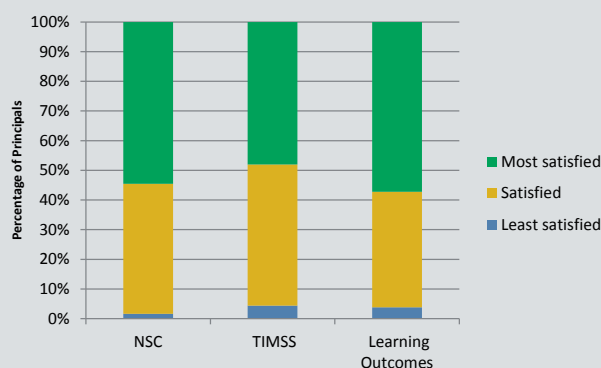
Analysis from Officials:

The graph below shows that 64% of officials were most satisfied with the quality of the engagements on the 2016 NSC results, whilst about 36% were satisfied and therefore a large percentage of officials were most satisfied. On the TIMSS presentation, 33% of officials were satisfied, whilst, the majority, 67% were most satisfied.



Analysis from Principals:

A large percentage (55%) of principals indicated that they were most satisfied with the analysis provided on the 2016 NSC results, and 44% were satisfied. However, on the TIMSS presentation almost half the participants were most satisfied and the other half satisfied both 48%. With regard to progress in improving Learning Outcomes, the majority of principals were most satisfied (57%), whilst 39% were satisfied. From what is depicted on the graph, it is clear that the engagements are providing a valuable platform for knowledge sharing and the initiative from the Department is appreciated.





INTERVIEWS WITH PRINCIPALS

MPUMALANGA
22 FEB 2017



Name: Ms P Makhubu
School: Khunjuliwe Secondary School
District: Gert Sibande

The engagement was very profitable. As principals we were able to see exactly where we stand as a district and as a Province. I was so impressed when I heard the slogan which says we should move radically to improve the results, and seeing what was presented, it gives us knowledge of where we should work harder to improve the results we're getting. Being compared with other districts, serves as a very good motivation especially because our Province is mostly agricultural and a mining province. We need to produce a lot of science learners. As I go back to my school, I will remember the saying that it's not easy to climb a hill but if you're down there, you're able to get a better view. Since we are at the centre in terms of the current results for 2016, I'm able to see further up so I can work harder and push teachers to also work harder.



Name: Mr BP Kolobe
School: Lifaletu Primary School
District: Gert Sibande

The engagement was very fruitful and worthwhile. The presentation on improvement of curriculum coverage, content coverage and the strategy of monitoring was worthwhile to me. I think in future when the DG comes; we should have handouts or printouts to take back to school. The CDs given cannot be easily shared with our teachers so printed copies will be fine. What I have to do is to strengthen my management style and improvement in punctuality. I will also look at the profile of teachers when we allocate them for different subjects and see if they fit well.

One other thing I liked is the emphasis on Grade 5 results in the TIMSS presentation, instead of only concentrating on Grade 12. I support what the DG said about consequences because all of us need to take what we do seriously, produce, there must be results and we must be committed to what we are doing.





Name: Mr GA Maritz
School: Laerskool Jeuglerag
District: Gert Sibande – Lekwa East

Yes the meeting was valuable to me as a principal. If you look at the statistics presented, they say there was an improvement over the years, an improvement that has happened all over South Africa, meaning that the system is improving, which is information that we find very useful and encouraging. It's also a good thing that the DG comes to speak to us directly, which is what we do not usually get.

What stood out for me was the performance comparison between quintiles, the fact that quintiles 1-3 have improved so much compared to quintiles 4 and 5. Previously, quintiles 4 and 5 produced 80 percent of bachelors passes, but now only 45 percent. That is very good news. The reviews are very important because they're not only reviews but it includes other information that is important to us. What I will do differently after this engagement is look at my teachers – some teachers have been in the same post for 10 to 15 years without changing. This has to change. It's time for teachers to explore new things for their development.



Name: Ms GE Kolobe
School: Emthunzini Primary School
District: Nkangala

The engagement was very valuable, it was a form of a reminder to do introspection as principals – what it is that we need to intensify to move forward. I think as a principal, I am a vehicle of change to my school, so I have no regrets attending such a meeting. What stood out for me was when the presenter spoke about reading, equity and efficiency - those are the tools that make a school improve in terms of reading, especially at the lower grades.

I was impressed how the presentation shifted from FET down to GET, emphasizing that most of the work needs to be done at the GET phase.



**PHOTOGRAPHIC
RECORD OF THE DG
ENGAGEMENT IN
THE MPUMALANGA
PROVINCE**



PROVINCIAL ENGAGEMENTS

2017

NSC 2016

TIMSS 2015



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Mpumalanga

A system on the rise.

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