



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



NEWSLETTER

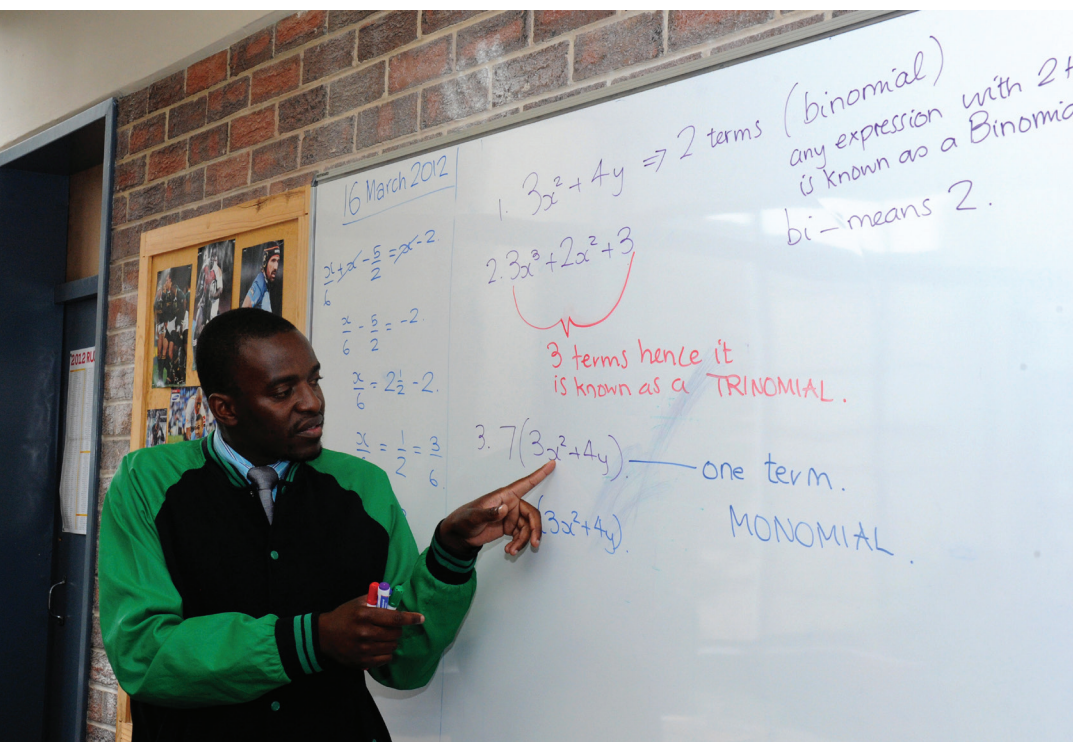
First Early Childhood Development Roundtable to be hosted by Minister Motshekga

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 day-care 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 partners with TEACH South Africa to deploy Mathematics teachers nationally



Minister Angie Motshekga has highlighted the importance of offering Mathematics in all schools; however, a shortage of qualified mathematics teachers in the system has been a challenge. In a bid to address this, the DBE has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with TEACH South Africa to place “TEACH Ambassadors” in schools that do not have qualified Mathematics teachers. This forms part of the DBE’s national strategy to address the shortage of Mathematics teachers, as well as ensuring the promotion of Mathematics as a subject necessary for the growth of the South African economy.

TEACH South Africa recruits and selects top performing young graduates in the field of Mathematics, Science and English from universities across the country and place them in disadvantaged and rural schools for a minimum period of two years. TEACH South Africa is committed to providing a platform for young graduates, who have excelled academically, who have demonstrated leadership skills and are committed to giving back to their communities through teaching. Since its inception in 2009, TEACH South Africa has placed 382 TEACH Ambassadors in eight provinces and in 228 schools impacting about 25 000 learners. To date, 57% of TEACH Ambassadors remain in the teaching profession, thereby increasing the pool of teachers in these scarce skills. In this partnership, the TEACH Ambassadors will be placed in schools that are located mostly in rural areas where it is often difficult to attract qualified Mathematics teachers. TEACH South Africa will provide on-going support to the TEACH Ambassadors throughout the two years.

Click on the below link for the full article:

<http://www.education.gov.za/Newsroom/MediaRelease/tabid/347/ctl/Details/mid/3963/ItemID/3942/Default.aspx>

Nine international learners to participate in the 14th International Festival of Language and Culture

Basic Education Deputy Minister, Mr Enver Surty, met with nine learners from India, Mozambique, Madagascar, Tanzania, Malawi, Egypt, Ukraine and Uzbekistan who arrived in South Africa, along with their teachers, to attend the 14th International Festival of Language and Culture (IFLC). The event will be held at the Nelson Mandela Theatre, in Johannesburg, on 21 April 2016. The Deputy Minister met with them, as well as four officials from the International Relations and Multi-lateral Affairs Directorate in Pretoria on 18 April 2016. During the meeting, Deputy Minister Surty said that the promotion of language and culture remains the strongest drive in bringing about global peace and stability. The Deputy Minister congratulated the learners who will be participating at the IFLC and encouraged them to work even harder to promote diversity and social cohesion in their respective countries.

The IFLC is an annual celebration and showcases diversity in linguistic talents from around the world. The festival first commenced in 2003 with only 17 countries participating. During 2015, 145 countries with more than 2000 participants took part in the event. The purpose of the festival is to promote research, learning and information exchange in support of peace, friendship and understanding. Students engage with the visitors and the local communities through initiating and participating in social, cultural, and educational activities. They are building strong ties and lasting friendships, as well as raising hopes for world peace. The IFLC had previously hosted events in Ethiopia, Romania, Australia, Morocco, Mozambique and the United States.

Held on South African soil for the first time, the IFLC will be co-hosted by the Department of Sports and Recreation SA, the Department of Arts, Culture and Recreation, Gauteng Province, the Department of Community Development of the City of Joburg, the National Arts Council of South Africa, Star Colleges and the Turquoise Harmony Institute, to name but a few of the partners involved.



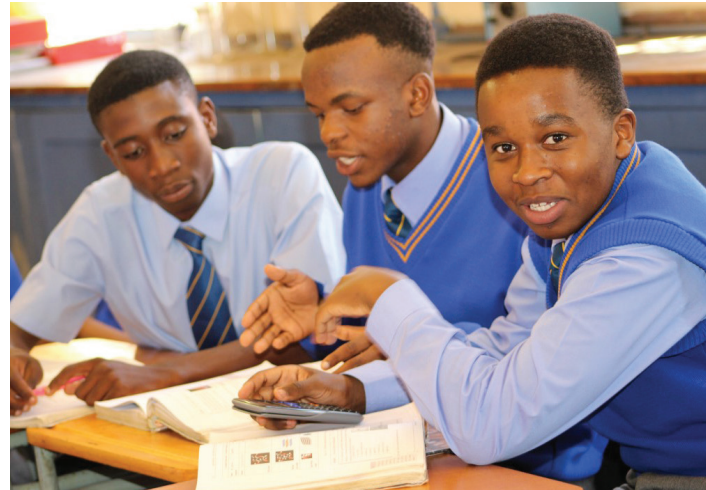
Conditional grant reviewed to strengthen Maths, Science and Technology in schools

In line with the recommendations from the Ministerial Task Team for Maths, Science and Technology (MST) in 2013, the Department resolved to reconfigure the Dinaledi and Technical Secondary Schools Conditional Grants in 2014/15 to allow for more schools to participate in the programme. Dinaledi schools were initiated to increase the number of Grade 12 learners passing Maths and Science. The new grant, that has now been reconfigured to promote universal access and participation in MST, was first implemented in the 2015/16 period. The draft reports for the 2015/16 financial period indicate that an adjusted allocation of R316 million (100%) was transferred to all provinces. The total expenditure for the grant, excluding commitments, was R277 million.

The expenditure covered the following goods and services that were procured and delivered to improve MST during the period: 595 schools were supplied with Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) resources such as laptops, tablets and software for the MST curriculum to support curriculum and teaching methodology at FET level; 802 workshops were supplied with equipment, tools and machinery for technology to support curriculum and practical teaching methodology at FET level; 136 Physical Science laboratories in Mpumalanga were supplied with consumables and subject related apparatus to support curriculum and practical teaching methodology at FET level; and 17,824 learners were funded to participate in Maths and Science Olympiads including coaching and revision camps to improve learner preparedness for the NSC examinations.

In preparation for the 2016 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), a total allocation of R326 million for the 2016/17 financial year was made available for all provinces to support the programme, which supports a total of 1,000 schools. Through the strategic conditional grant an investment of R362 million (2016/17), R385 million (2017/18) and R407 million (2018/19), the Department is committed to strengthen MST education by employing strategies to achieve increased learner participation and improved performance in Maths and Science; improve teacher demand, supply, utilisation, development and support; improve provisioning of resources; improve partnerships and collaborations; and introduce continuous qualitative and quantitative research as part of monitoring and evaluation.

The grant will focus on core deliverables such as Information Communication Technology (ICT) resources, workshop equipment, machinery and tools: laboratories and workshop equipment, apparatus, consumables; and teacher training in specific areas such as CAPS for Technical Schools and Senior Phase Mathematics for the 2016/17 financial period.



Help to prevent the spread of TB

The DBE commemorated 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 the host province as it has very limited intervention programmes at its disposal and if left unattended, this may lead to high infection rates. In addition, the JTG 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.

Seeing that TB is spread through the air by a person infected with TB, cough etiquette is an integral part in curbing the spread of this disease. A single patient can infect 10 to 15 people each year. When a patient with TB coughs, sneezes or spits, tiny droplets containing TB bacteria are sprayed into the air. When a person close to someone with TB inhales these tiny droplets, they can become infected with TB. TB is not spread by shaking someone's hand, sharing food or drink, touching bed linen or toilet seats or kissing.

Here are a few tips to help prevent the spread of TB:

- Always cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze. It is best to cough into a tissue to prevent the spread of infection;
- Look out for TB symptoms in your family or yourself. Contact your local health facility as soon as you suspect TB disease;
- Keep rooms in your home well ventilated by opening windows and doors;
- Ensure that you receive optimal nutrition and lead a healthy lifestyle which includes enough physical activity/exercise;
- Support family members or neighbours that are taking TB treatment by ensuring that they complete their 6 months course;
- Do not discriminate against children or people who are sick with TB; and
- Remember that TB is curable!

TB testing and treatment is provided free of charge in all public health facilities.



Assessment Dialogue Sessions are launched at the DBE

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 Acting Director-General, Mr Temba Kojana. 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. It is envisaged that the assessment dialogue forum will expose valuable research findings and stimulate growth of innovative ideas on key indicators pertinent to the Department. The dialogue will focus on assessment themes that will positively contribute to the improvement of examinations and assessment; and address specified issues that are a challenge in the field of assessment. The themes for 2016 will focus on, amongst others, quality versus quantity: the assessment debate; alignment between curriculum, instruction and assessment; effective teaching and learning through assessments; the art of reporting on learner performance; and standardised testing. Dr Rufus Poliah, Chief Director: National Assessment and Public Examinations, outlined the purpose of the Assessment Dialogue and Dr Qetelo Moloi, who leads the Annual National Assessments (ANA) team, made a presentation on “A National Framework for Reporting the Results of Large-scale Surveys in South Africa”.



Tales Untold – weathering storms to ensure quality education by Dr Qetelo Moloi



Dr Qetelo Moloi from the National Assessment and Public Examinations Chief Directorate casts a long, lingering look over his shoulder before he closes his chapter on education:

“*Normal* people in all professions, except teachers, went to school, acquired knowledge and skills and then left to find jobs as doctors, plumbers, architects, lawyers and in many other fields. This is not the case with teachers. This group of people went to school, acquired knowledge and skills but then probably felt so secure in the schooling environment that they never wanted to venture out and look for jobs. Instead, they found their calling and jobs in the same spaces where they were supposed to learn and then leave. Of course this is said in jest, but the truth is that I am one of them! All my professional life was spent in schools and in education. I taught Mathematics and Natural Sciences in secondary schools, became a high school principal, trained teachers and later became a subject advisor. This is where I came from when I joined the Department of Education (DoE) in 2001 and later transited to the Department of Basic Education (DBE) to continue contributing towards providing the system with data and evidence to inform decision-making and appropriate interventions to improve the quality of education for all in this beloved country.

The modalities of providing the data have been changing over time but the tenor has remained the same – the education system must use data as a basis for decision-making. So, beginning with the systemic evaluations of the late nineties and culminating in the Annual National Assessments (ANA) by 2015, I saw and participated in remarkable increases in both the tempo and the scope of national assessments in this period. In the first five years of my tenure the thrust for data use was mainly towards transformation and giving hope to South Africans. Although the first national report from a systemic evaluation study in 2003 showed a gloomy picture in terms of performance, the DoE utilised the findings of the evaluation to initiate transformational policies that culminated in the current fee-free schools to open access to schooling to all South African children.

In the second set of five years, results from both systemic evaluations and international studies continued to show that quality was still an elusive ideal in our education system. The system forged ahead to bolster respect for data not only to inform decisions, but also to lead and direct action. This was manifested in the launch of the Foundations for Learning Campaign in 2008. The thrust of the campaign was on strengthening the delivery of the curriculum through inculcating the use of data to inform teaching and learning as well as empowering school managers to use data in providing instructional leadership. The advent of the DBE saw a radical shift which effectively pushed data use to the centre, not only of what happens in schools, but also of how the entire Sector plans, delivers and monitors its achievement of national targets. A historic milestone in this regard was the development and adoption of a Sector Plan whose fulcrum are all kinds of assessments, chiefly ANA and public examinations, that generate data used in monitoring progress towards national targets.

I am humbled to have been part of the Unit of the Department that operates at the centre of the Sector Plan – the ANA Team. I am deeply indebted to this team of dedicated men and women with whom we laboured ceaselessly to make sure the Department has credible data to plan and provide quality education for all. The size of this team has always been disproportional to the magnitude of the outputs that they produce but this never softened their fortitude nor dampened their commitment to selfless service to the Department and to South Africa as a whole. May their kind increase! Finally, as I fondly cast a long, lingering look over my shoulder, I feel convinced that our education system is on the right trajectory towards improving the quality of the life of many a young man and woman in this country. *Au revoir!* Ke nako! Zidla zigoduka, Makwedini! Totsiens!”

Let's celebrate Africa Month during May

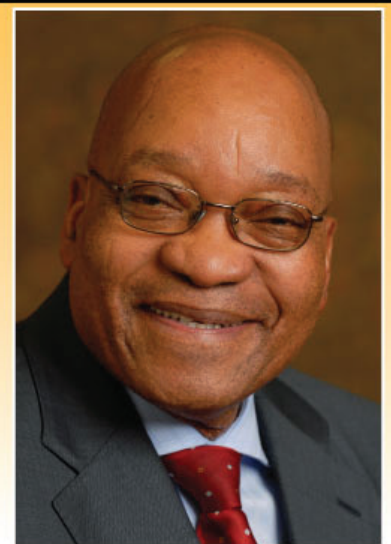
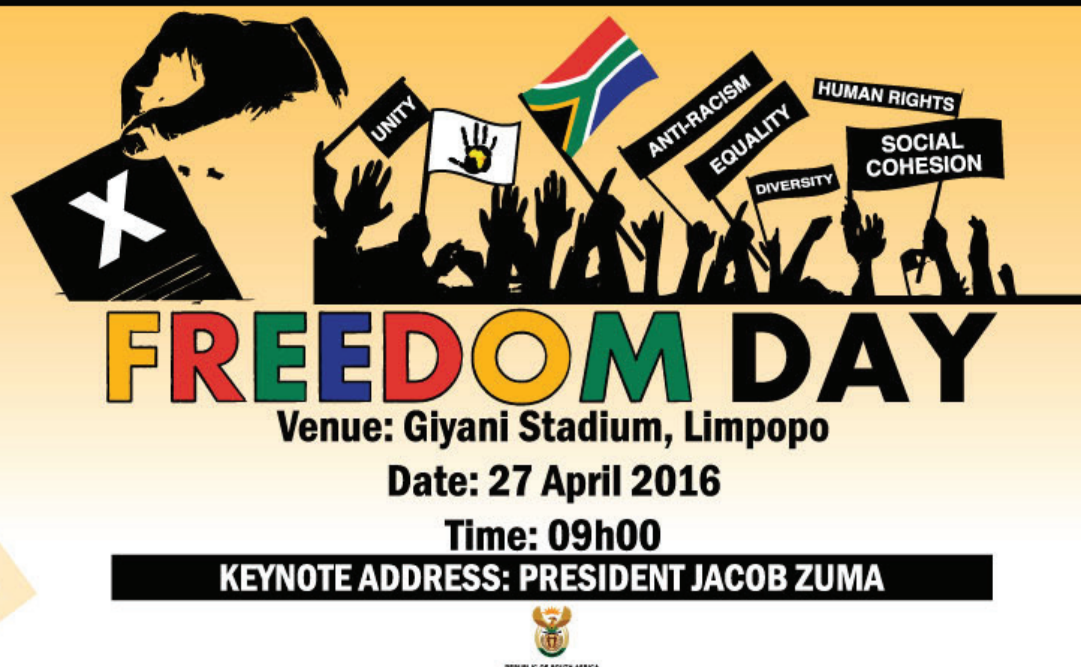
Africa Day is held on 25 May each year across the continent to mark the founding of the Organisation of African Unity, now known as the African Union (AU), in 1963. It is a celebration of the diversity of and a call to unity for the continent. The AU aims to promote greater unity and solidarity between African countries. It seeks to accelerate the political and socio-economic integration of Africa.

South Africa is celebrating Africa Day with a month-long celebration of what it means to be African. Africa Month sees a festival of ideas and cultural exchange with the aim of promoting and strengthening the creative economy, cultural diplomacy and social cohesion. The theme for Africa Month is: "We are Africa – opening the doors of learning and culture to promote peace and friendship from Cape to Cairo."

As part of the Africa Month celebrations, the University of Fort Hare will also be celebrating its centenary this year. The University, which opened its doors in 1916, will hold a year-long programme of events to showcase its rich history. The centenary celebration is a significant milestone for the University, which is the oldest historically black University in the country. The celebration will acknowledge the role the University has played in the fight for democracy and freedom.

Freedom Month - Together building better communities

Together Building Better Communities - Local Government is Everybody's Business.



#FreedomDay
#2016MunicipalElections

Freedom Day on 27 April annually marks the day on which the first democratic elections were held in South Africa in 1994 and heralded the turning point of building a country that truly belongs to all who live in it. This year's commemoration coincides with the 20th anniversary of the signing of the final draft of the *Constitution* into law, the 60th anniversary of the 1956 Women's March to the Union Buildings and the 40th anniversary of the June 16 Student Uprising. The *Constitution* laid the foundation for a democratic and open society in which Government is based on the will of the people.

This year's celebration also coincides with South Africa holding its fifth municipal elections. Municipal elections are held every five years to elect councillors who will be responsible for governing municipalities for the next five years. The right to vote is a fundamental right enshrined in the *Bill of Rights* and Government has called on all South Africans to honour our history and continue to strengthen the legitimacy of our democracy. The commemoration further provides us with an opportunity to reflect on progress we have made since 1994. The majority of our people have increased access to a wide range of basic services and more opportunities have been created for them to participate in the economy. However, we have to build an inclusive economy which creates jobs, so that we achieve socio-economic freedom and transformation.

The main event will be held on 27 April 2016 at the Giyani Stadium in Giyani, Limpopo Province.

Celebrating our Democracy Week

The DBE and the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) will embark on a Democracy Month programme from 20-27 April 2015 where the IEC will run various activities in schools throughout the country. The annual Schools Democracy Week (SDW) aims to promote electoral democracy among learners and will see thousands of learners in hundreds of schools engaging in civic education and voter registration activities for the week which ends on the 22nd anniversary of South Africa's first democratic election.

Regional Round-up

Gauteng



The online schools registration admissions process for the Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) Grade 1 and 8 learners commenced on 19 April 2016 after unforeseen technical challenges forced the shutdown of the online schools registrations application website, after it went live last week. The applications are for prospective pupils requiring placement for the 2017 school year, with the admission period ending on 07 September 2016. The applications period for placement at a Government school will close at midnight on 01 June 2016. All parents are advised to apply online by logging onto www.gdeadmissions.gov.za. An automated SMS will be sent to the parent's cell phone number to confirm the submission of the online application. The GDE reported that the placement of learners will commence from 24 June until 25 July 2016. During this period, schools will process learner placements online. Parents will receive an automated SMS indicating an offer of placement. Letters will also be sent to parents informing them of successful and unsuccessful applications. Parents will then be given a period of 7 days to accept or reject placement offers.

Western Cape



Siphamandla Senior Secondary School, based at Kuyasa in Khayelitsha in the Western Cape, will officially be opened by Minister Motshekga on 22 April 2016. The theme for the day is: *This is our story* and will reflect on the history and the achievements of the school. Established during March 2002 at a primary school around Khayelitsha, the demand for additional space became obvious with Secondary School classes starting at 13:00 until 17:00 to accommodate and allow the primary education to take place during the mornings. In January 2008, the school moved to a new building, after seven years of struggling. The neighbourhood in which the institution is situated is very disadvantaged and faced with various challenges. The school is now under the competent leadership of the principal, Mr Andile Magadla.

Upcoming Events

- 06 April – 10 May 2016: Physical Education Month
- 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
- 29 April 2016: ASIDI school opening at Upper Tobotshana Primary School in Butterworth
- 06 May 2016: ASIDI school opening at Mhlabuvelile Primary School in Mbizana
- 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
- 13 May 2016: ASIDI school opening at Siyanda Primary School in Butterworth
- 20 May 2016: ASIDI school opening at Kosana Primary School in Dutywa