



**basic education**

Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**THUTO**



## NEWSLETTER

# Subject Advisors converge to improve quality learning and teaching in Multi-grade Schools



The Rural Education Directorate is hard at work to ensure that learners in both rural and urban schools receive equal opportunities to access quality education. The Director for Rural Education, Dr Phumzile Langa, organised a Multi-grade Toolkit Workshop at the OR Tambo Garden Court Hotel from 03 to 07 April 2017 to empower more than 80 Subject Advisors from all nine provinces who will guide teachers on the delivery of the curriculum in Multi-grade Schools. The five day workshop, which is aimed at improving quality education in rural schools, aims at advancing the pedagogy of teachers specialising in various subjects in the Foundation to Senior Phases. The Workshop will also help teachers to improve the standard of teaching techniques, especially in challenging subjects such as Mathematics, Natural Sciences, Technology and Economic Management Sciences.

During the Workshop, Department of Basic Education (DBE) Education Specialist for Multi-grade teaching, Mr Jerry Zitha, said: "The curriculum is premised on a single graded structure and very difficult, if not impossible, to implement in schools that use Multi-grade teaching as a mode of delivering the curriculum. It is therefore critical for the Department to adapt and repackage the curriculum to meet the needs of the Multi-grade classroom; train both teachers and subject advisors in Multi-grade teaching on the adapted curriculum; and provide constant support to those teachers at school level. We expect to uniformly implement the Toolkit in 2018. According to the 2016 Annual Survey, more than 259,505 learners in 3,526 schools are accessing basic education through Multi-grade teaching. The Toolkit consists of a Multi-grade annual teaching plan, an exemplar lesson plan and assessment task worksheets in all GET subjects from Grade 1 to 9. To date, seven provinces have trained a cumulative total of 1,046 Subject Advisors and 1,251 teachers in preparation of the implementation of the Multi-grade Toolkit".

The Multi-Grade Toolkit was compiled through efforts of the National Training Team comprising of DBE and Provincial Education Specialists responsible for curriculum delivery in various subjects in the General Education Training band. The Toolkit has already been piloted in all nine provinces and will be officially printed and distributed to provinces by July 2017.

Dr Langa mentioned that Government has made significant strides in providing access to basic education to nearly 99% of learners across the country, and added that it is critical to collaborate with provinces to ensure that learners receive adequate support to complete the National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examinations. "Learners are a national asset; we need to work together as a sector to ensure that they are being supported to achieve academic success," concluded Dr Langa.





# DBE and PEISA host third symposium to elevate physical education in schools



Education experts and Physical Education stakeholders congregated at the University of Pretoria from 01 to 02 April 2017 for the Physical Education Symposium to explore various mechanisms that can be utilised in professionalising Physical Education in South African schools. The annual symposia serve as a platform for engagement amongst various stakeholders, including the DBE, educators, researchers, content developers, Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), sport and recreation partners, as well as the Physical Education Institute of South Africa (PEISA) to strengthen Physical Education in schools.

Physical Education within the learning environment has become a critical concept which requires urgent intervention from the DBE and HEIs by way of elevating its significant impact in influencing positive learner outcomes. Physical Education also plays an integral role in dealing with various issues such as obesity, overweight, stress, as well as heart related diseases. Learners therefore need to be educated about Physical Education and become active participants to lead a healthy lifestyle. The annual symposia, is central to a series of established physical education advocacy and sector mobilisation campaigns to be held as part of the DBE-PEISA annual calendar, including being an integral part of the national Physical Education Month and Physical Education Day celebrations, observed annually from 06 April to 10 May 2017.

The UNESCO Quality Physical Education Co-ordinator and head of PEISA, Mr Norman Mphake, said: “Our learners need to be afforded the opportunity to participate in curriculum orientated physical education lessons. We cannot afford to negotiate around the right for children to have access to Quality Physical Education”.

In his welcoming remarks, Deputy Director-General for Social Mobilisation and Support Services, Dr Granville Whittle, stated that learners need to be supported to realise their full potential. Physical Education is important because it helps learners to become physically active to nurture their sporting talents. Dr Whittle mentioned that all the inputs obtained during the Symposium will play a critical role in strengthening learner wellbeing.

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



# QLTC Provincial Co-ordinators meet to discuss way forward in improving quality learning and teaching in schools



On 28 and 29 March 2017, the Director for the Quality Learning and Teaching Campaign (QLTC), Mr Thula Nkomo and the Quality Co-ordinating Team (QCT) met with nine QLTC Provincial Co-ordinators in Centurion, Pretoria, to map the 2017–2019 plan of action and concretize the strategy aimed at mobilising members of various communities to collaborate with Government in implementing the *Action Plan to 2019: Towards the realization of Schooling 2030* within the Basic Education Sector in order for the goals set out in the *National Development Plan 2030* to be met.

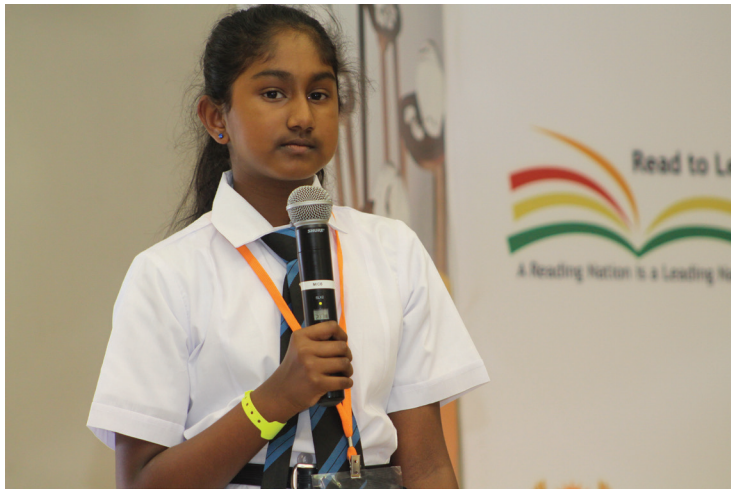
Mr Nkomo highlighted that: “Education remains a societal issue; various education stakeholders need to come on board to assist Government in dealing with service delivery protests that disrupt quality learning and teaching in schools. Through this meeting, we want to create uniformity amongst provinces to work towards a common goal of strengthening the QLTC in the country; and to develop a good reporting system that will empower provinces to support schools, especially during the community protests. We therefore need to work together as a society to address any *social ills* in our communities for the sake of sustaining quality learning and teaching in schools.” Mr Nkomo also condemned the barbaric action of those who were involved in the torching of schools in the Mpumalanga and Limpopo Provinces due to service delivery protests. The QLTC team has recently joined the provincial task team to mobilise and engage various communities to support the affected schools.

The QLTC’s continued engagement meetings with key education stakeholders are currently underway in various provinces across the country. These meetings have set out to mobilise members of communities to work together towards improving quality education in the country.





# Call for schools to register for the 2017 DBE Spelling Bee South Africa



Schools are reminded to register for the Annual National Spelling Bee Championship, which will be taking place at the University of South Africa (UNISA) in Pretoria on 23 September 2017. The DBE Spelling Bee has become one of the most critical programmes aimed at strengthening quality learning and teaching in the Foundation Phase. The DBE Spelling Bee is also part of the *Read to Lead Campaign* under the *Integrated National Literacy and Numeracy Strategy: A Whole School Approach*, which is a programme aimed at improving learners' performance in languages, especially in English. The 2017 Spelling Bee is open to learners in Grades 4, 5 and 6. The first DBE Spelling Bee took place during October 2014.

Spelling Bee Co-ordinator, Mr Potledi Ngoepe, says that: "It is essential that learners participate in the Championship as it presents them with an opportunity to showcase their literacy skills. Schools should assist in mobilising learners towards mass participation in the 2017 DBE Spelling Bee. To enter, schools are required to complete the registration form that should be stamped by the school principal, and forward it to their relevant Provincial Education Department. Upon receipt of the registration form, the relevant official in the province will organise a workshop to clarify the rules of the competition, and to conduct elimination rounds up to provincial level. The DBE will receive the names of the provincial winners for them to compete at national level".

Most Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) have already completed or are busy conducting workshops for registered schools to prepare for the competition. Thereafter, the competitions will be taking place in the various Districts during June and July 2017 with the provincial competitions taking place during August 2017. The dates for the provincial elimination rounds will be announced soon.

Miss Mayuri Govender, a Home Education learner in the Northern Cape Province, emerged as the champion speller during the 2016 National Spelling Bee Championship, which took place at UNISA on 29 October 2016 by spelling the word "colloquial". A total of 27 spellers competed in the 2016 Championships. During each round, the spellers were expected to face the adjudicators on a one-on-one basis and to spell the pronounced words correctly; and a speller who failed to do so was automatically eliminated. Those who spelled the word correctly then proceeded to the next round to compete for the first place. The winning learner received a Monash SA scholarship for an undergraduate degree of her choice, a trophy and a certificate of recognition for being the 2016 champion speller.

A call is hereby made for all officials and schools to encourage learners to participate in the 2017 National Championship. The 2017 spelling list of words can be accessed at: <http://www.education.gov.za/Programmes/SpellingBee.aspx>. The closing date for the competition is 31 April 2017. Participation in the competition is free. For further enquiries, please contact Mr PJ Ngoepe: Sport and Enrichment Directorate at 012 357 3442 or [ngoepe.pj@dbe.gov.za](mailto:ngoepe.pj@dbe.gov.za).





# Regional Round-up

## Northern Cape



The Northern Cape Department of Education has recently launched a project to reduce learner pregnancies at schools in the form of sex education for boys and girls in addition to curriculum-based life orientation lessons. Dr Tshego Gopane, the Head of the Emancipation of the Girl Child Learner Programme, said that only girls were initially targeted, but the scope of the programme was extended to include boys as these issues affect both genders. Gopane said that some of the issues discussed in the programme are self-esteem, peer pressure, decision-making, healthy behaviour, how to avoid falling pregnant and where to access contraceptives. The aim of

the programme is to actively engage pupils on matters that may negatively affect their schooling career. The Programme was launched in Bankhara-Bodulong High School in the John Toalo Gaetsewe District as it has the fifth highest pregnancy rate for girls under the age of 18 years out of 81 Districts in South Africa.

## Upcoming Events

- 07 April 2017: Minister Angie Motshekga to host the National Education Excellence Awards at the Capital Menlyn Maine Hotel in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 07 April 2017: Closing date for the submission of the 2017 Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secondary Schools Essay Competition entries to the Provincial Education Departments
- 10 - 13 April 2017: The SA Schools National Championships (Autumn Games: Swimming) will be taking place at the Polokwane swimming pool in Limpopo Province
- 11 April 2017: 17<sup>th</sup> Annual National Teaching Awards Repeat Broadcast on SABC 2 at 10:30
- 14 April 2017: Good Friday
- 17 April 2017: Family Day
- 19 April 2017: Director-General, Mr Mathanzima Mveli, to continue his Provincial Engagement Visits in Rustenburg, North West Province
- 20 April 2017: Director-General, Mr Mathanzima Mveli, to continue his Provincial Engagement Visits at Mahikeng Convention Centre, Mahikeng, North West Province
- 21 April 2017: Director-General, Mr Mathanzima Mveli, to continue his Provincial Engagement Visits at Chief Albert Luthuli School, Daveyton, Gauteng Province
- 24 April 2017: Director-General, Mr Mathanzima Mveli, to continue his Provincial Engagement Visits at Grace Bible Church, Pimville, Soweto, Gauteng Province
- 25 April 2017: Director-General, Mr Mathanzima Mveli, to continue his Provincial Engagement Visits at Soshanguve East Secondary School in Shoshanguve, Gauteng Province
- 27 April 2017: Freedom Day
- 25 May 2017: Africa Day
- 27 May 2017: A special Africa Day commemoration will be taking place at Freedom Park in Pretoria in honour of the late Oliver Reginald Tambo
- 29 July – 19 August 2017: National Schools Moot Court Competition essays are to be submitted to the University of Pretoria / [www.schoolsmoot.co.za](http://www.schoolsmoot.co.za)
- 19 August – 22 September 2017: The hosting of the provincial rounds of the National Schools Moot Court Competition
- 04 – 08 October 2017: The National Schools Moot Court Competition finals to be hosted at the University of Pretoria and the Constitutional Court in Johannesburg



# OUR FUTURE - MAKE IT WORK

South Africa belongs to all its peoples. Now, in 2030, our story keeps growing as if spring is always with us.

Once, we uttered the dream of a rainbow.  
Now we see it, living it. It does not curve over the sky.

It is refracted in each one of us at home, in the community,  
in the city, and across the land, in an abundance of colour.

When we see it in the faces of our children, we know: there will  
always be, for us, a worthy future.



