



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



NEWSLETTER

Minister Motshekga receives draft “Jobs for Cash” report



The Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga, received the draft “Jobs for Cash” report from the Ministerial Task Team chaired by Professor John Volmink on 26 February 2016, and the final report on 29 February 2016. The Minister will meet with the relevant stakeholders cited in the report. These include Teacher Trade Unions and School Governing Body organisations to share the findings of this important report.

It is necessary to make the report available to the relevant stakeholders cited to avoid them seeing the findings for the first time in the media. The Minister will also share the report with the President before releasing it to the public and members of the media. The Minister expects these processes to be finalised by mid-March. The DBE will continue to keep South Africans abreast of developments in respect of the report.

Reaffirming the significance of the teaching profession in the South African schooling system through the National Teaching Awards

The 16th Annual National Teaching Awards ceremony was held on 27 February 2016 at the Gallagher Convention Centre in Midrand and will be televised nationally on SABC 2 on 08 March 2016 at 21:30. Through the National Teaching Awards the Department of Basic Education (DBE) acknowledges the extraordinary efforts of teachers, often achieved under very difficult conditions and in service to all learners - the future leaders of South Africa.

The Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga, welcomed and introduced the Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, saying that it is befitting that South Africans celebrate excellence in the teaching profession since it is the heartbeat of the nation. Minister Motshekga went on to say that teachers play a significant role in society and added that they deserve to be applauded for their commitment and determination in ensuring that schools become centres of excellence.

The Deputy President expressed his gratitude to all hard working and dedicated teachers who always walk the extra mile in improving quality education in South African schools. “It is truly heartwarming to be with you on this occasion, as we recognise and celebrate excellence in our teaching profession. Today, we acknowledge with gratitude the very best among our national brigade of educators. These are the teachers who exemplify a particular commitment to advancing the prestige of the teaching profession. They know more than anyone that education is the best weapon at our nation’s disposal to eradicate poverty and its dehumanising effects. They know that a good teacher is truly the most important and precious resource in front of a child,” said the Deputy President. This year’s NTAs were dedicated to the late ANC President, Oliver Reginald Tambo, who had been a good ambassador of education for his entire life.

Click on the below link to read the full article:

<http://www.education.gov.za/Reaffirmingthesignificanceteaching/tabid/971/Default.aspx>



The private sector plays pivotal role in teacher development programmes



Through partnerships with various private sector partners and organisations, the DBE has done tremendous work in the area of teacher development to date. Mr Haroon Mahomed, Director for Continuous Professional Teacher Development at the Department of Basic Education, explained that, through various partnerships, there is a stronger focus on co-ordinating mandates, activities and resources with the ETDP-SETA, the South African Council for Educators (SACE) and Provincial Education Departments (PEDs). There is greater attention to ensuring that the workplace skills plan system becomes more efficient and aligned across the different players i.e. better planning, analysis of needs, and distribution of resources, monitoring and evaluation. The National Strategy for Learner Attainment (NSLA) has been made a priority item for PEDs reporting on the range of teacher development activities that are conducted. As a result of this, there is

increasing focus on teachers participating in programmes based on the National Senior Certificate (NSC) and the Annual National Assessment (ANA) diagnostic reports with emphasis on languages, Maths, and Science. There is also an emphasis on participation on the Continuous Professional Teacher Development (CPTD) management system and professional learning communities.

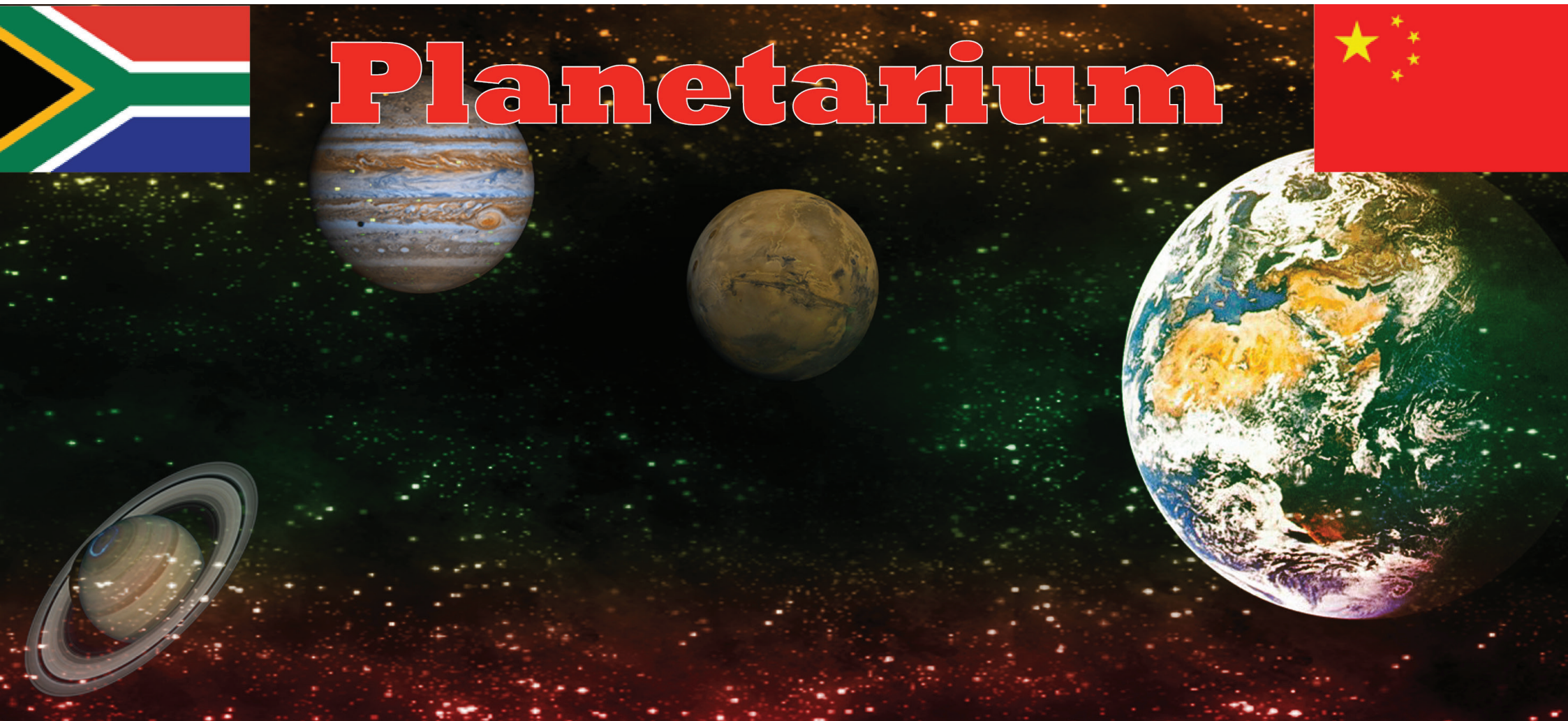
A number of partnerships have been created to support sector priorities such as the increasing access to and integration of Information Communication Technology (ICT), the strengthening and use of teacher development centres, English First Additional Language training and Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), among others. Partnerships have been set up with organisations such as Vodacom Foundation, Microsoft, UNISA, UNICEF, Intel, Mindset, USAID, the British Council, the Flemish Development Agency (VVOB) and others.

Click on the below link to read the full article:

<http://www.education.gov.za/Theprivatesectorplayspivotalrole/tabid/972/Default.aspx>



Planetarium



The China Educational Instrument and Equipment Corporation (CEIEC) donated a planetarium to South Africa as part of a co-operation agreement between the Republic of South Africa and the People's Republic of China. It was agreed between the two countries that the planetarium be housed at the Gauteng Department of Education's Sci-Bono Discovery Centre in Newtown, Johannesburg, where the Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga, will launch the planetarium, together with the Ambassador of China, on 07 March 2016.

Sci-Bono is a world-class science centre that supports Maths, Science and technology education and offers innovative, dynamic learning experiences that contribute to building South Africa's science, engineering and technology capacity.

Africa Day for School Feeding

During the 26th session of the African Union, the Heads of State and Government took a decision to mark 01 March as Africa Day for School Feeding as from 2016. This is Africa's opportunity to advocate for the importance of home grown school feeding programmes as the continent's strategy to enhance retention and performance of children in schools, and to boost income generation and entrepreneurship in local communities. The launch of this annual event will be celebrated in the Republic of Niger under the theme "Home Grown School Feeding – a conduit for Africa's Sustainable Development".

The DBE marked this day in collaboration with the United Nations World Food Programme, the world's largest humanitarian agency. The WFP reaches more than 80 million people with food assistance in 75 countries each year, whilst the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP), the flagship programme of the South African Government, reaches over 9.2 million learners in approximately 21 000 schools countrywide. The NSNP provides daily nutritious meals to learners from the poorest communities to enhance their learning capacity. The meals provided are based on the Food-Based Dietary Guidelines offering a variety of essential nutrients that are required for a growing child (i.e. protein, starch, vegetables or fruit).

In further safeguarding the health and well-being of learners in South Africa, the Minister of Basic Education launched the National School Deworming Programme in February 2016, which is currently underway in quintile 1 to 3 primary schools nationwide. Deworming will maximise the nutrient uptake of NSNP meals, leading to improved health and academic outcomes. The benefits of the NSNP include regular school attendance, punctuality and enhanced participation in classroom activities - all essential elements for quality teaching and learning.

As Africa Day for School Feeding is marked, all member countries of the African Union are called upon to strengthen the procurement of fresh produce from local producers thereby improving the quality and freshness of school meals as well as developing local farming business.



Tales Untold: Inviting submissions

The *Thuto* Team extends its gratitude to all colleagues who took time to motivate others through our *Tales Untold* feature during the past few months. All stories are welcome as long as they motivate and inspire the readers to remain positive and focused in their work environment. The sharing of personal accounts motivates others within the Department, as well as the education sector. We therefore invite all interested DBE employees to submit their accounts to Mr Carlton Mukwevho at: mukwevho.c@dbe.gov.za

Commemorating International Women's Day



Although South Africans commemorate national Women's Day annually on 09 August, International Women's Day on 08 March is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. To celebrate International Women's Day (IWD), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) is organising a panel discussion on women's role in the recent rise in violent extremism and radicalisation and how women are involved as perpetrators, as victims and as advocates to counter violent extremism and radicalisation.

Thus far, national and global attention has made too little difference in the day-to-day lives of women and girls trapped in and around disadvantaged and conflict areas. At the same time, too little attention has been given to examining how the resources and political will generated by the post-2015 framework could help move this agenda forward. The unfortunate fact is that women are still not paid equally to that of their male counterparts; women still are not present in equal numbers in business or politics, and globally women's education, health and the violence against them remains unaddressed. In a context of increasingly radical and violent extremism, the objective of International Women's Day 2016 is threefold: to raise awareness on the different roles and perceptions of women and men in a context of violent extremism and radicalisation; to identify and support women's experiences and capacities as peace-builders and agents of change; and to acknowledge and celebrate, on the occasion of IWD, the efforts of the many women who claim their power to say "no" to radical extremism. As South Africans it is important to build a society free from violence and discrimination where everyone can pick the fruits of democracy.

Provincial Round-up

Gauteng



At a recent ICT industry breakfast, MEC Panyaza Lesufi mentioned that 75% of Gauteng township schools have been connected to the Internet. The Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) used the connectivity of the Gauteng Online Schools Project (GOSP) to provide Internet connectivity to the schools. Every school was connected through the GOSP, but they were mainly used as laboratories where people could check or send e-mails. The GOSP was launched by the Gauteng Provincial Government to build a province-wide school computer network for curriculum delivery. The Department has also partnered with companies like Vodacom, MTN and the Universal Service and Access Agency of SA to connect some of the Province's township schools. In 2014, the GDE announced that it would embark on an initiative to create the classrooms of the future, which involved the switch from chalkboards to smartboards. As part of the first phase of the project last year, the Department sought to equip classrooms with high-speed broadband connectivity, laptops, and interactive electronic boards. The schools' curriculum content was also digitised. According to the Department, it distributed 64 000 tablets to grade 12 learners in 2015 and the Department has committed to invest R7 billion in ICT in education over the next four years.

Eastern Cape



Effective communication and taking timeous and appropriate action are the key factors that are needed to improve the quality of education and the matric results in the Eastern Cape. This emerged in an Education Summit organised by the Consultation of Christian Churches in Port Elizabeth. A wide range of education stakeholders including teachers, principals, church leaders, learners and teacher unions took part in the Summit held at Nangoza Jebe Hall, which primarily focused on previously disadvantaged schools. This follows a number of protests over the shortage of teachers, lack of resources and school infrastructure in the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro. The Provincial Education Department was recently in the spotlight after more than 50 schools were closed by disgruntled parents over teacher shortages and infrastructure which resulted in learners missing three weeks of schooling. The Province intends to improve its results as it has been the worst performing province for three consecutive years. A target of 70% has been set for the 2016 matric class. In 2015's matric results, the Eastern Cape obtained a 56, 8% pass rate.

Upcoming Events

- 07 March 2016: Minister Motshekga to launch a Planetarium at Sci-Bono Discovery Centre in Newtown, Johannesburg
- 07 - 09 March 2016: SABC Education Career Indaba at the Sandton Convention Centre
- 08 March 2016: The broadcast of the 16th Annual National Teaching Awards ceremony on SABC 2 at 21:30
- 08 March 2016: Closing date for the call for comments on the proposed 2018 School Calendar
- 08 March 2016: The commemoration of International Women's Day
- 14 March 2016: NSNP Awards at the Presidential Guesthouse in Pretoria
- 21 March 2016: The commemoration of national Human Rights Day
- 01 April 2016: District and School Excellence Awards at the Presidential Guesthouse in Pretoria