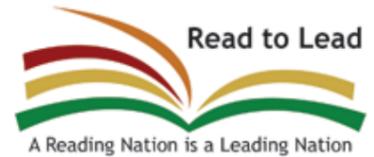




basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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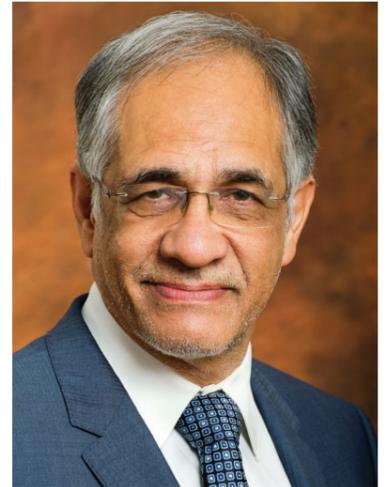


NEWSLETTER

Basic Education Minister shares highlights of the policy decisions taken during the Council of Education Ministers Meeting



On 13 March 2017, The Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga, briefed the media on the outcomes emanating from the Council of Education Ministers (CEM) meeting held in Pretoria on 09 March 2017. The main purpose of the media briefing was to update the public about the policy decisions taken by the CEM in terms of strengthening the schooling system. Some of the key issues that were discussed at the CEM included: the *National Policy on the Prevention and Management of Learner Pregnancy*, the Second Chance Matric Support Programme, the regulation of the National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examinations, the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP), Infrastructure Safety and Security, as well as Inclusive Education.



The *National Policy on the Prevention and Management of Learner Pregnancy* has been put through the relevant consultative process and was approved by CEM for implementation. The CEM also acknowledged the implementation of the Second Chance Matric Support Programme in the country. The first phase of the programme is the supplementary examinations which commenced on 22 February 2017. More than 92,000 candidates have enrolled to sit for the examinations at 5,928 centres around the country. These examinations are proceeding well and will be concluded on 30 March 2017. The Department is working hard to strengthen the regulations to better deal with irregularities. "The CEM received a proposal with amendments to the regulations and the process to make changes has commenced; we hope to be in a position to implement the revised regulations for the 2017 sitting of the NSC. We want these regulations to not only assist us in dealing with learners who violate them, but we want to be able to deal harshly with officials and teachers who are found to be involved in wrong doing as well," explained the Minister. The NSNP is also under evaluation to assess the impact of the NSNP in strengthening learning and teaching in schools. "We currently feed over 9,6 million learners with a balanced meal across the country on a daily basis," remarked the Minister. The DBE is finalising the proposed School Infrastructure Safety and Security Guidelines (SISSG) to create school environments that are conducive to learning for all learners. The guidelines will provide minimum measures that must be considered by professional contractors who are designing and providing infrastructure projects in public schools across all infrastructure programmes. The SISSG focusses on new, replacement and existing schools.

"The CEM is a critical structure of the education sector, it gives us the opportunity to reflect on developments in the sector and to determine the way forward with the appropriate policies that will assist to make improvements in the system, concluded Minister Motshekga.

Click on the below link for the full report:

<http://www.education.gov.za/Newsroom/MediaRelease/tabid/347/ctl/Details/mid/5986/ItemID/4285/Default.aspx>

Minister Motshekga awards the national winners of the 2016 SADC Secondary Schools Essay Competition



Minister Angie Motshekga, together with Deputy Minister Enver Surty, handed over prize money to the three national winners of the 2016 Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secondary Schools Essay Competition during a prize giving ceremony which was held as part of the CEM meeting on 09 March 2017, at the DBE.

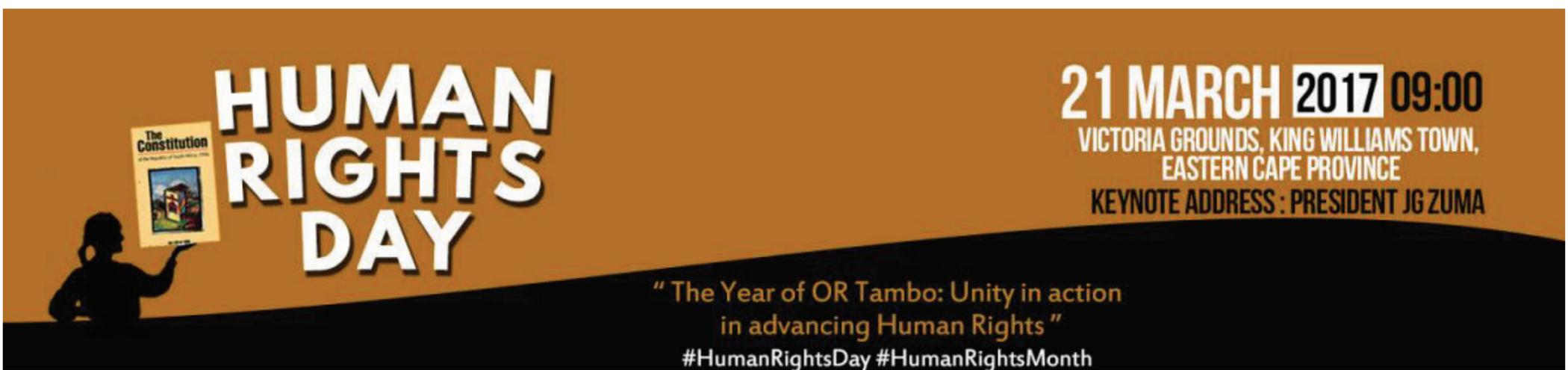
In an effort to encourage youth participation in regional integration affairs, SADC launched the 17th edition of the SADC Secondary Schools Essay Competition, which was open to all secondary school students in the region. The deadline for the submission of entries was 31 May 2016. The essay topic for 2016 was "Transformation of natural endowment and improved human capital will accelerate industrialisation in SADC economies". Learners were required to draft a 2000 word essay based on the theme, while following the required guidelines as set out by the SADC Secretariat.

South Africa has participated in the competition since its inception 18 years ago. A panel of DBE officials adjudicated the process and selected the best three essays from South Africa to be submitted to SADC. The adjudication panel consisted of the following Curriculum Implementation and Quality Improvement Officials: Mr Braam Ras, Mr Monyaki Bulara and Mr Reinhardt Kuhles. The national winners for the 2016 competition are:

- 1st Place (US\$ 500): Mamburu Maaberwa (Grade11), Glen-Cowie Secondary School , Limpopo Province;
- 2nd Place (US\$ 300): Bongeka Innocentia Sibanda (Grade10), St Enda's Secondary School, Gauteng Province; and
- 3rd Place (US\$ 200): Sizwe Msimango (Grade 11), Ivy Academy, Gauteng Province.

The abovementioned winners were entered into the Regional Leg of the competition, where they competed with the National winners of the other SADC member states.

Human Rights Month - "The Year of OR Tambo: Unity in Action in Advancing Human Rights"



Human Rights Day was declared on 21 March 2017, to honour those who fought for the liberation of all South Africans and to celebrate the *Constitution* that guarantees our rights. This year, the Human Rights national celebration will be held at the Victoria Sportsground in King William's Town, Ginsberg in the Eastern Cape under the theme: "*The Year of OR Tambo: Unity in Action in Advancing Human Rights*" to raise awareness and promote respect for basic human rights. The Department of Arts and Culture, in collaboration with the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development and in consultation with the Presidency, declared 2017 as *The OR Tambo Centenary* as a fitting tribute to mark Oliver Reginald Tambo's selfless and fervent effort towards democratic transition and as an advocate for human rights.

Mr Oliver Reginald Tambo was born on 27 October 1817 in the Bizana village in the Eastern Cape Province. His educational career and political life commenced in the year 1940, whilst he was a student at Fort Hare University. After being dismissed from the University, he assumed a teaching career as a Science and Mathematics teacher. Besides being a Mathematician and a teacher, the late OR Tambo was also a lawyer and a musician. During his early years with the ANC he became the founding member of the ANC Youth League. During 1955 he became a member of the National Executive, the Secretary-General of the ANC and later the Deputy President. He was further elected as the President of the African National Congress after the passing on of INkosi Albert Luthuli in 1967. The late OR Tambo passed away on 24 April 1993 and was buried in Boksburg in the Gauteng Province.

During Africa Month, a special commemoration will also be taking place at Freedom Park in Pretoria on 27 May 2017 in honour of the late Tambo: a great teacher, lawyer and hero:

"We seek to create a united democratic and non-racial society. We have a vision of South Africa in which black and white shall live and work together as equals in conditions of peace and prosperity. Using the power you derive from the discovery of the truth about racism in South Africa, you will help us to remake our part of the world into a corner of the globe on which all - of which all of humanity can be proud." - A quote from Oliver Tambo speaking at Georgetown University on January 27, 1987.

Action Plan to 2019 : Towards the Realisation of Schooling 2030 - Our blueprint for the education sector



On 21 August 2015, Minister Angie Motshekga, approved the *Action Plan to 2019: Towards the Realisation of Schooling 2030* as the revised basic education sector plan. The *Action Plan to 2019* is focused, above all, on providing indicator values (actual and targets) needed for producing other planning documents at national and provincial levels. The *Action Plan to 2019* represents another milestone in the journey towards quality schooling for all South Africans. This document takes stock of key developments in the basic education sector since the release of the previous sector plan, *Action Plan to 2014: Towards the realisation of Schooling 2025* in 2011. The *Action Plan to 2019* reiterates many of the priorities outlined in the earlier plan, *Action Plan to 2014*.

The *Action Plan to 2019* pamphlets have been published in all 11 official languages on the DBE website. These can be accessed via the below link:

<http://www.education.gov.za/Curriculum/ActionPlanto2019.aspx>



The 17th Annual National Teaching Awards - Recognising teaching excellence



The 17th Annual National Teaching Awards (NTA) ceremony will be held on 25 March 2017 at Gallagher Convention Centre in Midrand, and will be broadcast on SABC 2 on 30 March 2017 at 22:00.

Since 2000, the NTAs have allowed the DBE to salute all teachers and to acknowledge their extraordinary efforts, which have been achieved often under very difficult conditions and in service to all our learners. These Awards allow all of us to publicly appreciate, celebrate and encourage our dedicated and caring teachers in their efforts to develop each learner into South Africa's leaders of the future.



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Bridging an inequality gap between rural and urban schools through the implementation of Whole School Development



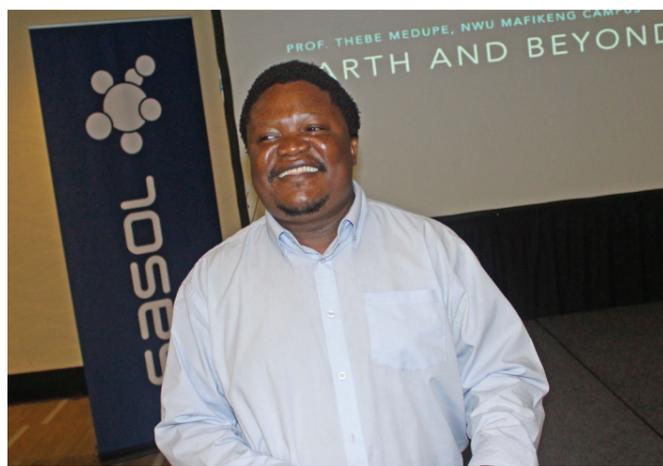
A solid partnership between Government and the private sector in improving rural education in the country will yield positive results. The DBE, in partnership with the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) and Adopt-a-School Foundation, launched the Whole School Development Project in Bushbuckridge, in the Mpumalanga Province on 10 March 2017. The IDC has adopted 30 schools nationally to improve the quality of education in previously disadvantaged schools.

The project, which has been implemented in partnership with Wipro Technologies and the Nelson Mandela Foundation, is set to improve rural school resources whilst helping learners to achieve success rates in critical subjects such as Mathematics and Physical Science. As part of the partnership, learners from Mapaleni Primary School and Makhosana Manzini High School received a new administration block, a computer centre, a laboratory and a library to perform optimally.

Minister Motshekga acknowledged the Whole School Development Project, saying that learners in rural areas deserve better resources to advance their academic progress. The Minister added that the significant contribution made by the private sector will turn rural schools into centres of excellence. "Education is the best gift we can give to our children. All resources provided in these schools will enable learners to attend lessons in an environment that is conducive to learning. I am delighted that we are also launching the Project at primary school level; unless our primary schools are fully functional, it will be difficult for us to make inroads in terms of improving quality education in this country. Our baseline as a sector is to strengthen quality learning and teaching in the intermediate phase," said Minister Motshekga.

The Minister also used the opportunity to promote the *Read to Lead Campaign*, saying: "The most important thing we need in this sector is the promotion of a reading culture amongst learners. Our children should be taught how to read, write and count at an early age". Minister Motshekga therefore advised the Mapaleni Primary School learners to use the library resources on a daily basis: "I encourage you to borrow books from the new library and read thoroughly; but, please make sure you return the books to the library for other learners to also have access to these books," concluded Minister Motshekga.

Refocusing the Schooling System for accelerating Mathematics and Science participation



South African teachers specialising in Mathematics, Science and Technology (MST) must be groomed to consolidate new strategies and teaching techniques to improve quality performance in the education sector. Approximately 120 Subject Advisors from various provinces underwent MST training aimed at uplifting the quality of teaching, as well as the success rate in these gateway subjects in schools at Grade 4 to 7 levels. The training took place at the OR Tambo Southern Sun Hotel in the Gauteng Province from 07 to 10 March 2017.

The workshop, which was organised by the DBE, in partnership with the Sasol Inzalo Foundation, was utilised as a mechanism to broaden the content and pedagogical knowledge of the Subject Advisors in MST to enable teachers to comply with the cognitive demand of the Curriculum Assessment Policy Statements (CAPS). All attendees are therefore expected to roll out similar workshops in their respective provinces to assist teachers with curriculum coverage in these subjects, particularly at primary school level where setting proper foundations is critical.

As part of the partnership, the Sasol Inzalo Foundation has produced Mathematics textbooks (Grade 4 to 6) to increase textbook access in the country. The Director for Teacher Development at the DBE, Mr Philip Dikgomo, said: "These textbooks are critical resources as their development was informed by the workbooks that are being distributed to learners in the Intermediate Phase. The DBE is currently busy with the logistical processes to ensure that these textbooks reach all schools by 2018. Each subject advisor will receive six books for Grade 4 to 6: one learner book and one teacher guide. The Grade 7 material, provided in electronic format, will soon be uploaded on the DBE website for easy access".

The workshop gave the Subject Advisors an opportunity to interact with the writers of the material and various intellectuals in the field. Paying special attention to strengthening the professional development of Subject Advisors and teachers specialising in MST, will have a positive impact on learner performance, especially in these gateway subjects. The Maths Indaba, which was held during December 2016, provided a framework for special attention to be given to Mathematics; the workshop is one of the first concrete deliverables of the Indaba owing to the Sasol Inzalo Foundation's valuable contribution in strengthening quality learning and teaching in schools.

Strengthening the teaching of English reading in primary schools



The DBE, in collaboration with the National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT), hosted the Second Phase English First Additional Language (EFAL) workshop for 256 Foundation Phase (PF) Subject Advisors who have been capacitated to train and support 10,000 Grades 1 to 3 teachers in teaching EFAL effectively. Teacher Union representatives were also in attendance. The workshop took place at Birchwood Hotel and Oliver Tambo Conference Centre, in Boksburg from 27 February to 02 March 2017.

The EFAL professional development programme is a component of the Primary School Reading Improvement Programme (PSRIP) developed by the NECT. Approximately 10,000 teachers from 1,670 schools and 256 Subject Advisors across provinces are targeted for this programme. Subject Advisors are critical to the programme as they will form part of the training teams; and will provide ongoing support to teachers. The training was therefore necessary to capacitate them to fulfil these roles.

The First Phase of the workshop took place from 29 November to 02 December 2016, at the Saint George Hotel and Conference Centre in Pretoria. This was followed by the 256 FP Subject Advisors conducting the First Phase training workshops for 10,000 teachers in their respective provinces. The training workshops commenced early in January 2017 and were finalised towards the end of February 2017. The provinces will begin with their Second Phase teacher training workshops from 18 March until mid-April 2017. The monitoring, support and evaluation of this programme by the DBE will be ongoing.

DIGITAL CONTENT RESOURCES

DIGITAL CONTENT RESOURCES

DBE Digital Content

- Digital Content Resources
- e-Textbooks (CAPS)
- Teacher Guides
- Video Lessons
- Workbooks
- Study Guides
- Worksheets
- Resource Kit
- Educational Apps
- E-Pubs
- Storybooks

Free e-Textbooks (CAPS)

- Everything Maths (Grade 10 – 12)
- Everything Science (Grade 10 – 12)
- Life Science (Grade 10)
- Mathematical Literacy (Grade 10)
- Mathematics (Grade 7 – 9)
- Natural Science (Grade 7 – 9)
- Technology (Grade 7 – 9)
- Mathematics (Grade 4 – 6)
- Natural Science & Technology (Grade 4 – 6)
- Technology (Grade 7 – 9)
- Technical Mathematics (Grade 10 – 11)
- Technical Science (Grade 10 – 11)

DBE Cloud

- Digital Content Resources
- LMS
- Collaboration
- Educational Apps
- Central Repository

Educational Broadcasting

- DBE Broadcasting Channel (OVHD 201)
- Telematics
- Internet Broadcasting Project (IBP)
- SABC Education

<http://www.dbecloud.org.za/web/guest/welcome>

Many rural schools continue to be disadvantaged due to a lack of access to technology, which is essential in the 21st Century Classroom. A generation ago, schools relied on a computer lab and desktop computers for computer training. Today, the entire classroom has been transformed into a learning environment using a range of devices to enhance Information Communication Technology (ICT); making teaching and learning simpler and more practical.

The DBE Cloud Solution is an educational web-portal for the South African community consisting of components catering for learners, teachers, parents and schools. The aim of the Cloud is to create an engaging interactive online user experience for learners and teachers; and to provide them with resources and tools to support teaching and 21st Century Learning. The DBE Cloud is device independent and easily accessible and navigable. It is developed on open source technology (Moodle) and provides for safe and secure Internet access.

Services offered include: e-mail and Internet access, hosting facilities, storage of information and resources, access to educational content and tools, online courses and administrative support to schools. The DBE Cloud also enables users to utilise collaboration tools such as news and announcements/notifications, calendar facilities and limited gamification to showcase functionality.

Click on the below link for additional information on the DBE Cloud:

<http://www.dbecloud.org.za/web/guest/welcome>

Invitation to the 2017 SADC Secondary Schools

Essay Competition



In an effort to encourage youth participation in regional integration affairs, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) launched the 18th edition of the SADC Secondary Schools Essay Competition, which is open to all high school learners in the SADC region. All interested learners from any secondary or high school in South Africa are encouraged to enter.

The essay topic for 2017 is *“Harnessing Sustainable Energy for Regional Economic Development*, which was derived from the theme of the 36th Ordinary SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government: *“Resource Mobilization for Investment in Sustainable Energy Infrastructure for Inclusive SADC Industrialization for the Prosperity of the Region”*. Learners should

discuss how these would result in sustainable economic development.

The vision of SADC is to create “a common future, within a Regional Community” that will ensure the economic well-being and improvement of the standards of living and quality of life, freedom and social justice; peace and security for the peoples of Southern Africa. The fifteen SADC member States are Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The essay should not be less than 1500 words and not more than 2000 words.

In addition, winners of the Regional Leg of the competition will be invited to attend the SADC Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government, to be held during August/September 2017, to receive their prizes during the official opening ceremony.

The closing date for entries is 21 April 2017.

For more information, contact Mr Lucky Maluleke at 012 357 3861 or e-mail Maluleke.l@dbe.gov.za

Click on the link below for additional details about the SADC Secondary Schools Essay Competition: [http://www.education.gov.za/](http://www.education.gov.za/Informationfor/Learners/SADCEssayCompetition.aspx)

[Informationfor/Learners/SADCEssayCompetition.aspx](http://www.education.gov.za/Informationfor/Learners/SADCEssayCompetition.aspx)

Upcoming Events

- 21 March 2017: Human Rights Day
- 22 March 2017: Director-General, Mr Mathanzima Mveli, to continue his Provincial Engagement Visits in Tivhumbeni in Tzaneen, Limpopo Province
- 23 March 2017: Director-General, Mr Mathanzima Mveli, to continue his Provincial Engagement Visits at Lusikisiki College in Lusikisiki, Eastern Cape Province
- 24 March 2017: Director-General, Mr Mathanzima Mveli, to continue his Provincial Engagement Visits at Mthata Trinset College in Umtata, Eastern Cape Province
- 25 March 2017: 17th Annual National Teaching Awards in Gauteng Province
- 28 March 2017: Director-General, Mr Mathanzima Mveli, to continue his Provincial Engagement Visits in at the Diamantveld High School in Kimberley, Northern Cape Province
- 29 March 2017: Director-General, Mr Mathanzima Mveli, to continue his Provincial Engagement Visits at Upington High School, Upington, Northern Cape Province
- 30 March 2017: 17th Annual National Teaching Awards Broadcast on SABC 2 at 22:00
- 07 April 2017: Minister Angie Motshekga to host the 2nd National Education Excellence Awards at the Saint George Hotel and Conference Centre 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
- 11 April 2017: 17th Annual National Teaching Awards Repeat Broadcast on SABC 2 at 10:30
- 14 April 2017: Good Friday
- 17 April 2017: Family Day
- 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
- 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.

