



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



NEWSLETTER

Minister Motshekga tables 2017/2018 Basic Education Budget Vote in the National Council of Provinces



Basic Education Minister and Deputy Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga and Mr Enver Surty, tabled the 2017/2018 Basic Education Budget Vote in the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) in Parliament, Cape Town on 07 June 2017.

During this sitting, the Minister and Deputy Minister also made use of the opportunity to update the NCOP about the Department of Basic Education's (DBEs) strategies and plans that have been put in place to deliver quality basic education to all South Africans during the 2017/2018 financial year.



The NCOP sitting also presented an opportunity for the DBE and Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) to highlight the progress made in the implementation of various programmes that were initiated to improve learning and teaching in schools during previous financial years.

The NCOP, which consists of nine provincial delegations, ensures that provinces are given a voice in the national legislative process. Each delegation, in turn, consists of six permanent delegates and four special delegates. The Premier of each province is the head of that respective province's delegation, but he or she may also select any other member to lead the delegation in his or her absence. The permanent delegates are Members of Parliament, while the special delegates are selected by each province from members of the provincial legislature. The NCOP came into existence with the adoption of the *Constitution* in 1996. The NCOP provides provinces with a forum in which to engage with national government on matters concerning areas of shared national and provincial legislative powers, and oversees the programmes and activities of national government relating to provincial and local government matters.

<http://www.education.gov.za/Newsroom/Speeches/tabid/950/ctl/Details/mid/6106/ItemID/4392/Default.aspx>



The legacy of OR Tambo honoured as part of the African Month celebrations



Life and legacy of **OR TAMBO.** **100 YEARS**



The DBE, in partnership with the Gauteng Department of Education, the Oliver and Adelaide Tambo Foundation and Freedom Park, hosted Freedom Day, as well as the commemoration of the OR Tambo Centenary celebrations under the theme: *The Year of OR Tambo: Building a better Africa and a better World*. The event, which took place in the Gallery of Leaders at Freedom Park in Pretoria on 03 June 2017, saw leaders from various sectors on the African Continent converge to honour the legacy of OR Tambo. Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, the Freedom Park Acting CEO, Mr Tlou Mathura, and delegations from India, Tanzania, Kenya and Botswana paid tribute to the liberation icon.

African Freedom Day has been celebrated as far back as 1959 on the continent, including African people living abroad. The Organisation of African Unity (OAU), which was established on 25 May 1963, after a meeting of 32 heads of African states, took a decision to change African Freedom Day to Africa Day and celebrate it annually on 25 May. The official opening of the ceremony included the hoisting of the African Union (AU) and AU Member Country Flags, as well as the singing of the AU and South African National Anthems.

“We are the proud grandchildren of Tambo, an internationalist, educator and a fervent Anti-Apartheid leader; Tambo was the greatest liberation fighter of the 20th century,” proclaimed Minister Motshekga.

Oliver Reginald Tambo was born on 27 October 1817 in 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 Mathematics and Science 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 African National Congress (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 ANC after the passing on of i’Nkosi Albert Luthuli in 1967. The late OR Tambo passed away on 24 April 1993 and was buried in Boksburg in the Gauteng Province.

Learners from fifteen schools in the Gauteng Province were among the special guests who attended the tribute which became even more significant when learners from the Chief Albert Luthuli Primary School rendered a historical item during the commemoration. Learners posed several questions to Minister Motshekga on educational matters during a special interactive discussion session.

In response to their questions, Minister Motshekga replied that, “the curriculum will always change, especially when there is a need for learners to be taught specific skills that are relevant; hence, we are now moving towards providing technical skills. The DBE has already introduced the *Three Stream Model* within the education sector to empower learners who encounter difficulty in the academic stream, so that they can become successful entrepreneurs”. Minister Motsekga also used the opportunity to inform learners about the *Read to Lead Campaign* and remarked: “Learners need to read more books to understand the world around them and to become avid readers”. Minister Motshekga encouraged teachers and learners to establish debating sessions and reading clubs to promote a culture of reading.

The Minister also reassured learners that: “Our National Senior Certificate (NSC) is viewed as a valuable *currency* because it is benchmarked at an international level to assist our learners to become globally competitive”; and further reiterated that History is a critical subject because it teaches learners about the events that shape the world. It is also helps learners to understand who they are as children of the African soil. “The subject should be strengthened to afford learners an opportunity to learn more about past and current African leaders”, the Minister said.

In conclusion, Minister Motshekga thanked those teachers who follow the example of education icons such as Tambo, for their dedication in ensuring that learners acquire a quality basic education to equip them as future leaders and role models.

“We seek to create a non-racial, non-sexist, united and democratic 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.” *Tambo’s address at the George Washington University, 27 January 1987*



Evaluation of the Funza Lushaka Bursary Programme



The DBE, in partnership with the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME), commissioned an evaluation of the Funza Lushaka Bursary Programme. The purpose of this evaluation was to assess the Programme's effectiveness against its intended outcomes, the extent to which the Programme has been efficient in its implementation, as well as its long-term sustainability. The evaluation was conducted by JET Education Services between May 2014 and March 2016.

The findings of the evaluation indicated that the Programme, which is considered a Government success story, was performing well. The overall recommendation was that the DBE should retain the Programme as it is an effective policy instrument to address supply requirements of qualified teachers in areas of scarce skills and should be sustained by Government, along with the improvements recommended in the report.

The introduction of the Funza Lushaka Bursary Programme has resulted in turning the shortages of applicants for teaching in 2006 and 2007 around, and teacher supply numbers are no longer critical. Teacher supply in terms of matching needs in subjects such as Mathematics, Science and Technology, Languages, as well as the GET band continue to be key challenges. The teaching component needs to strengthen classroom-based teacher effectiveness for improved learning and teaching.

The Provincial Spelling Bee competition underway



Spelling Bee partners and reading club organisers converged at the DBE in Pretoria on 24 May 2017 to attend a briefing session on the status of the 2017 National Spelling Bee Competition, as well as to discuss strategies to improve the implementation of reading clubs in schools and communities. This flagship programme, which is linked to the *Read to Lead Campaign*, was initiated to encourage a culture of reading, whilst assisting learners to improve their English language skills in learning and teaching. Schools from across all nine provinces have already registered to compete in this year's Competition, which will be hosted at the University of South Africa (UNISA) on 23 September 2017.

Participants are expected to learn several English words, which they might be requested to spell at various levels of the Competition. National Spelling Bee Co-ordinator, Mr Potledi Ngoepe, said that the DBE has made material available on its website and appeals to all participants to read this material to increase their vocabulary. Ngoepe further indicated that the only way learners can become experts in literacy is through the support of teachers, parents and community members: "Learners should take responsibility and read more books to become better spellers. The Competition is about providing assistance to learners to improve their literacy skills to excel academically".

The DBE and PEDs are conducting regular workshops to empower approximately 400 provincial officials to establish and sustain reading clubs in their respective provinces. Mr Ngoepe remarked that, "Reading clubs instil a reading habit amongst learners in the Foundation and the Intermediate Phases. We therefore encourage all learners, especially learners with special needs, to join reading club programmes to improve their academic performance through fun activities".

Registration for the 2017 National Spelling Bee Championships closed on 29 April 2017 and provinces are currently busy with district elimination sessions. The Provincial Spelling Bee Competitions will have been completed by 15 September 2017. All the provincial winners will then proceed to the last phase of the Competition, the National Championships.

Mr Ngoepe acknowledged the valuable contribution made by the Department of Arts and Culture (DAC), in partnership with the Spelling Bee implementers since the Competition was launched during 2014. These include the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC), the National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT), UNISA, Monash University and the South African National Council for the Blind (SANCB).



Advancing Youth Economic Empowerment during Youth Month



Youth Month

June 2017



The year of OR Tambo:

Advancing Youth

Economic Empowerment

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www.education.gov.za

Statistics shared by the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), who will, along with various government departments be driving the June 2017 Youth Month celebrations, indicate that the South African youth population grew by 6,0% between 2009 and 2014. South African youth account for the majority of the population - a little over 19,5 million in 2014. The education levels of our youth is concerning and there is an urgent need to broaden their economic participation.

This year's theme: "The Year of OR Tambo: Advancing Youth Economic Empowerment", implies an action-oriented approach, with actions and initiatives by a broad range of social partners, led by Government, to ensure that young people are brought into the mainstream economy. The focus for this year's Youth Month centres around active citizenry, education and skills development, entrepreneurship, as well as the values advocated during the Oliver Tambo centenary celebrations. In his life, Tambo warned us that "a country that does not take care of its youth does not deserve its future".

The main aim of the celebrations is to educate the youth about their history and role played in the struggle for national liberation by reflecting on the events of the 1976 Soweto Uprising. Although strides have been made in youth development and political liberation, the youth is now fighting a new battle for economic liberation and access to quality education. The Youth Day commemoration will be taking place in Ventersdorp in the North West Province on 16 June 2017, encouraging debates, discussions and conversations through social dialogues about the challenges confronting the youth. Various youth development programmes will also be highlighted to initiate conversations on their role in the transformation of the economy for more inclusive growth in achieving the goals outlined in the *National Development Plan* (NDP).

The DBE encourages active citizenry among the youth aimed at the socio-economic transformation of their lives and communities. The youth of South Africa should aspire to assimilate the values and virtues of OR Tambo, particularly in relation to education and leadership through innovation, to actively fight the scourge of substance abuse and crime through participation in uplifting programmes including recreational activities and sports.

Regional Round-up



Western Cape

Gang violence is still a major problem in the Western Cape and the Western Cape Education MEC, Ms Debbie Schäfer, has praised police for their co-operation in the province, and said they were doing their utmost to maintain law and order. However, it is evident that SAPS is not adequately resourced to manage this task by themselves and require additional intervention and support by social and safety and security public and private sector partners, as well as community members. The recent gang violence in Lavender Hill brought a desperate community to its knees when learners and parents were unable to travel to and from school for fear of being caught in the cross fire between rival gangs. The safety of our learners remains our main priority.

Upcoming Events

- 09 – 10 June 2017: The provincial rounds of the ABC Motsepe Schools Choral Eisteddfod Championship to take place in the Northern Cape Province
- 13 – 15 June 2017: The DBE will be participating in the 8th South African AIDS Conference in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal Province
- 04 – 07 July 2017: The ABC Motsepe Schools Choral Eisteddfod National Championships to take place at the Rhema Bible Church, Gauteng Province
- 18 July 2017: A Mandela Day celebration will be taking place in partnership with the Nestlé Healthy Kids Programme in the Gauteng Province
- 29 July – 19 August 2017: National Schools Moot Court Competition essays are to be submitted to the University of Pretoria
- 19 August – 22 September 2017: The hosting of the provincial rounds of the National Schools Moot Court Competition
- 27 September 2017: World School Milk Day will be celebrated in the Western Cape Province
- 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
- 09 – 15 October 2017: A National Nutrition Week Commemoration will be taking place under the theme: "*Rethink your drink – Choose Water*" in the Gauteng and North West Provinces
- 09 - 22 October 2017: A National Nutrition Week "*So Chef*" workshop will be taking place in partnership with the French Embassy in four provinces (Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape and Western Cape) and in five cities (Johannesburg, Pretoria, Durban, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town)

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.

