



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



NEWSLETTER

Basic Education Minister to release “Jobs for Sale” investigation report as scheduled



Minister of Basic Education, Ms Angie Motshekga, will release the “Jobs for Sale” investigation report as scheduled on 15 April 2016 once all processes have been completed. The Minister has noted statements from the South African Democratic Teachers’ Union and the concerns they have raised. Minister Motshekga will not engage any stakeholders via the media, but will, instead, address all issues at the scheduled meeting planned for 14 April 2016. The Minister appointed a Task Team after reports surfaced that certain posts for teachers were sold for cash. The Task Team has since submitted the draft final report to the Minister.

The Minister reminded all the parties involved that the investigation has got to do with people’s lives and key to the investigation was the protection of witnesses and whistle-blowers, hence the involvement of the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development and a forensic team of investigators. The Minister remains committed to making the report public as she said at the time of setting up the investigation.

Minister Motshekga to host the National Education Excellence Awards

Minister Motshekga is hosting the Education Excellence Awards, incorporating the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) Awards and the District and School Excellence Awards, at the Presidential Guest House in Pretoria today.

The aim of the awards is to recognise those Schools and Districts that have excelled in the implementation of the NSNP to overcome poor learning outcomes caused by hunger and malnutrition; as well as to focus on the performance of Districts as the vital clog in the overall management of the schooling system and the Schools that have performed through the systematic and sustainable improvements to the school environment through the integration and mediation by Districts between the schools, Provincial Education Departments and the Department of Basic Education.

The Education Excellence Awards recognises excellence in the following categories: NSNP Best District Award; NSNP Best School Award; Top Performing Public School; Best Performing LSEN School; Most Improved Full Service School; Top Performing Districts; Most Improved Districts; Highest Achievement in Bachelor Passes (2012 – 2015); Highest Achievement in Mathematics and Physical Science Passes (2012 – 2015); High-Flyer at 80 Award; Excellence in District Leadership and Management Award; Top Performing District in the Kha Ri Gude Mass Literacy Programme Award and a Special Ministerial Award. The Ministerial Award is presented to the school that has been achieving a 100% pass rate and over 99% Bachelor passes during the past five years.

Good luck to all the Schools and Districts!



Minister Motshekga to meet with education stakeholders to exchange ideas on ways to uplift Rural Education in the country

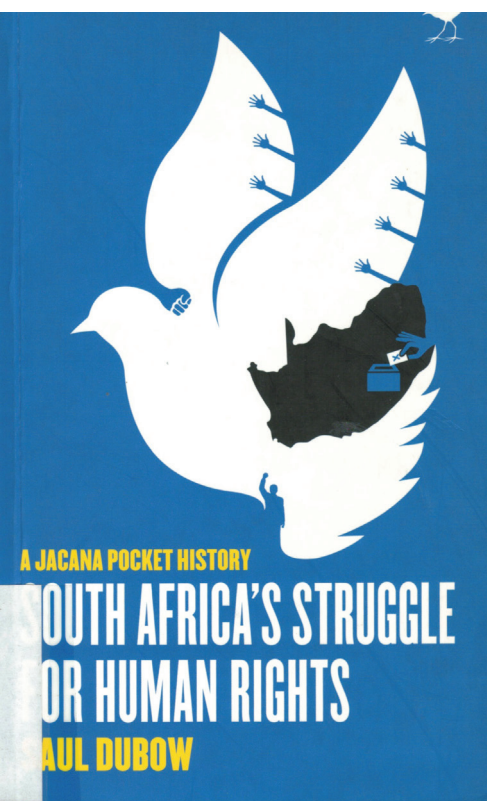
The Rural Education Directorate will host the first Rural Education Roundtable on 08 April 2016 at the DBE in Pretoria. The Director for the Rural Education Directorate, Dr Phumzile Langa, stated that the roundtable will play a significant role in improving Rural Education for the better.

“The roundtable discussions will be used as a vital platform for education stakeholders to engage on the strategic direction of Government and the sector in terms of Rural Education; to evaluate progress made by Government and the sector in supporting Rural Education; to make an effort in strengthening intra and inter-sectoral strategic partnerships in the sector between government departments, NGOs, the private sector and national and international donors; to create a platform to reflect on models that are working for Rural Education; to make contributions on the development and implementation of the strategy and the sector plan on Rural Education; and to re-affirm the role of monitoring, evaluation and research in measuring impact, tracking progress, and informing best practice,” explained Dr Langa.



Information Resource Centre (IRC) Review

In this month's Information Resource Centre (IRC) Review we look at the following books:



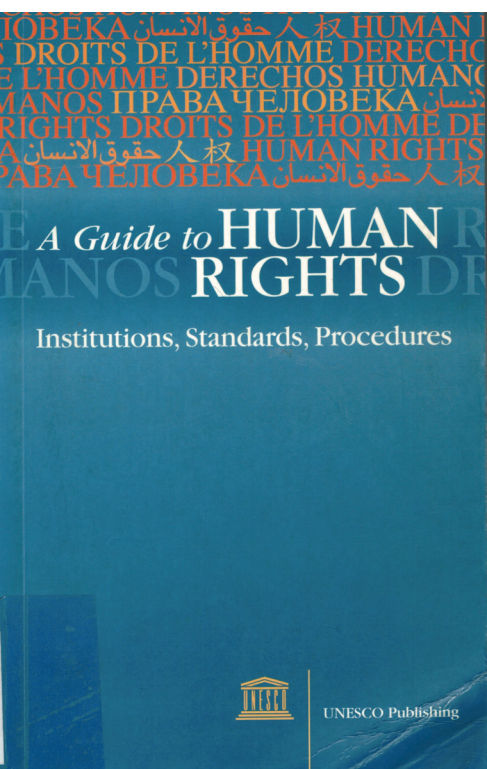
South Africa's Struggle for Human Rights

Author: Dubow, S

Dewey number: 323.0968 DUB

Reviewed by: Nthabeleng Kgoale

South Africa's transition to a post-apartheid democracy has been widely celebrated as a triumph for global human rights. Yet, less than a generation after the achievement of freedom, the future of human rights and constitutionalism in South Africa is uncertain. This book seeks to explain how and why the apartheid government and the ANC both *discovered* human rights in the mid-1980s. It does so by exploring several rights *regimes* over two centuries: African nationalist, liberal, and republican. Although fragmented and episodic, these traditions help explain why rights discourse and constitutionalism gained broad acceptance in the last decade of the twentieth century, and momentarily aligned South Africa with broader global trends.



A Guide to Human Rights: Institutions, Standards, Procedures

Author: Symonides, J

Dewey number: 323 SYM

Reviewed by: Nthabeleng Kgoale

This publication provides brief information on major instruments, procedures and mechanisms to protect human rights, principal events and institutions dealing with human rights.

Global Libraries Programme highlights the value of libraries for all South Africans

This week saw the third leg of the launch of the multimillion-rand Mzansi Libraries On-Line pilot project at Nkalimeng Leutsoa Public Library in Sharpeville, Gauteng. This initiative of the Global Libraries Programme of South Africa was funded by the National Libraries of South Africa, the Gauteng Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The R32 million two-year project will be piloted at three libraries in Gauteng Province, providing free new technological resources and training, among other benefits.

The Suurman and Wedela Libraries in Tshwane and Merafong respectively, have implemented the project from which both young and old will benefit. The Global Libraries Programme aims to roll-out the project to 44 more libraries across Gauteng over the next three years, with 14 to be completed in the 2016 and 2017 financial year. Local communities will have access to ICT equipment to the value of R470 000. This Project will contribute to ensuring that South Africans embrace the *Read to Lead Reading Campaign* advocated by Minister Motshekga.

Source: Sibahle Malinga, ITWeb online magazine portals journalist, 30 March 2016

Tales Untold: A determined mind despite shortcomings and setbacks by Prashil Jeena



Mr Prashil Jeena from the Strategic Planning and Reporting Directorate had the following to say about a determined mind despite shortcomings and setbacks:

“I am fundamentally an optimist and a philanthropist at heart. I intend to enhance the value of education in our country through my service at the DBE. I gain a lot of strength and stability from shortcomings and setbacks because, when things are not going my way, I make the necessary adjustments to push until I succeed. Through the support of family members, friends and colleagues it is much easier to overcome any obstacle in life. Every change we make, every person we meet, and every bit of information we absorb is coming together so we can create a desired outcome.

My expedition to Mount Everest in 2004, where a team of 24 friends and family members embarked on a 11 day hike to reach Base Camp, which is 5 545 metres above sea level, helped me to see that any mountain can be conquered by a determined and focussed mind. Traveling locally and to international destinations has exposed me to various different cultural activities and lifestyles. It has exposed me to the opportunities and goals one can achieve through hard work and determination and this has influenced me to experience, achieve and learn more through different activities and experiences in life.

A healthy and nurtured body and mind also assists to overcome shortcomings and setbacks: I assisted my father, a now retired pharmacist, to formulate a herbal medication range named

Fruits of Health, whereby each ingredient that is used serves as the natural alternative for the allopathic equivalent, and therefore consumers suffer from fewer side effects.

I am a conscientious, diligent and dedicated person who embraces work ethics at all times. This is a critical approach in my career because it helps me to remain socially conscious whilst ensuring that my technical, business and managerial skills are well nurtured. As the *Bill of Rights* states, all people in our country deserve the democratic values of human dignity, equality and freedom. Every person is entitled to certain fundamental rights, simply by being human. Whatever our nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, language, or any other status, we are all equally entitled to our human rights without discrimination. Nelson Mandela’s words remain evergreen: “*Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world*”. It is through education that one can improve the quality of life for oneself, your family and future generations. Through a ripple effect, this improvement in oneself will resonate through others, and thereby changing the world for the better.”

World Autism Day and Inclusivity



The eighth annual World Autism Awareness Day will be commemorated on 02 April 2016. Mainstreaming disability requires an integral approach in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres to ensure that inequality is not perpetuated. The theme for 2016 is: *Autism and the 2030 Agenda: Inclusion and Neurodiversity*. Autism and autism spectrum disorder (ASD) are both general terms for a group of complex disorders of brain development. These disorders are characterised, in varying degrees, by difficulties in social interaction, verbal and non-verbal communication and repetitive behaviours. ASD can be associated with intellectual disability, difficulties in motor co-ordination and attention and physical health issues such as sleep and gastrointestinal disturbances. Some persons with ASD excel in visual skills, music, mathematics and art. Autism has its roots in early brain development. However, the most obvious signs of autism and symptoms of autism tend to emerge between 12 and 18 months of age.

During September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the ambitious new *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, which includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

and 169 targets that promise to leave no one behind. Whilst all SDGs are universally applicable, disability and persons with disabilities are explicitly referenced in the following goals: Quality Education; Decent Work and Economic Growth; Reduced Inequalities; Sustainable Cities and Communities; and Partnerships for the Goals.

The *White Paper on the Rights of People with Disabilities*, approved by Cabinet on 9 December 2015, is a crucial step along the journey of improving the lives of persons with disabilities and moves us closer to a fully inclusive society for all as envisioned in the *Freedom Charter*, which unambiguously states that “South Africa belongs to all who live in it”. It builds on the progressive policies and programmes that Government has and continue to implement over the past number of years to make positive and meaningful changes for persons with disabilities. In line with the NDP, the *White Paper* is a call to action for Government, civil society and the private sector to work together to ensure the socio-economic inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Fighting corruption through new Public Service Anti-Corruption Communication Campaign



Government will be launching a brand-new and exciting Public Service Anti-Corruption Communication Campaign that will be rolled out to various government departments in due course.

Fighting corruption is a global concern as corruption is found in both rich and poor countries, and evidence shows that it hurts poor people disproportionately. It contributes to instability, poverty and is a dominant factor driving fragile countries towards state failure. Governments, the private sector, non-governmental organisations, the media and citizens around the world are joining forces to fight this crime. Corruption undermines democracy and the rule of law, leads to human rights violations, distorts markets, erodes quality of life and allows organised crime, terrorism and other threats to human security to flourish. Economic development is stunted because foreign direct investment is discouraged and small businesses within the country often find it impossible to overcome the “start-up costs” required because of corruption.

On 31 October 2003, the United Nations General Assembly adopted *the Convention against Corruption*. The Assembly also designated 9 December as International Anti-Corruption Day to raise awareness of corruption and of the role of the Convention in combating and preventing it.

The South African anti-corruption and fraud hotline number is 0800 701 701. Other anti-corruption hotlines include:

- Human Settlements: 0800 20 44 01
- Government Employees Pension Fund: 0800 43 43 73
- South African Revenue Service: 0800 00 28 70
- South African Social Security Agency (SASSA): 0800 60 10 11

Regional Round-up

Gauteng



Over a year ago, the Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) identified 200 schools to be refurbished with sanitation facilities. The Department upholds a stance that *sanitation is dignity*, but realised that most learners were using dilapidated toilets. To solve this challenge, Sulabh International and the Sanlam Group partnered with the GDE to renovate toilets in six schools around Gauteng. During March 2016 the partnering organisations held roundtable discussions with Government and private stakeholders in the sanitation industry. The discussion intended to seek solutions of improving sanitation, especially in rural and farm schools. Talks were led by the Gauteng MEC for Education, Mr Panyaza Lesufi. In recent months, the six schools were renovated through the provision of adequate plumbing, painting and the installation of mirrors. The beneficiaries were: IH Harris Primary School in Doornfontein, Malvern High School in Malvern, Hitekani Primary School in Soweto, Makhoarane Primary School in Dobsonville, as well as Malerato and Tswelelo Primary Schools in Randfontein.

Upcoming Events

- 06 April – 10 May 2016: Physical Education Month
- 06 – 08 April 2016: Regional Seminar on Social, Financial and Entrepreneurship Education for Children and Youth in Southern Africa
- 08 April 2016: Minister Motshekga to host Rural Education Roundtable at the DBE in Pretoria
- 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
- 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