



**basic education**

Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**THUTO**



## NEWSLETTER

# National Oversight Visit Programme wraps up in the Waterberg District in the Limpopo Province

Basic Education Minister, Mrs AM Motshekga, the Director-General, Mr HM Mveli and various senior managers concluded the National Oversight Visit Programme at Bela-Bela in the Limpopo Province on 13 October 2016. The primary focus of the visit was to assess the state of readiness for the 2016 National Senior Certificate Examinations (NSC); strengthen the efforts of the district and the province on their “last push” programme; and communicate the message of “building an intelligent and capable State” through the implementation of the National Development Plan (NDP).

The visit to Bela-Bela commenced at the Raeleng Secondary School. The school had recorded a very low percent pass rate in the NSC over the past years. However, through the Department’s intervention, the school managed to achieve a pass rate of 72% in the 2015 NSC Examinations.

Addressing learners at the school, Minister Motshekga said, “Success is in your hands; stay focused and study hard to achieve good results this year. “It is only through hard work and education that you can realise your dream,” Minister Motshekga motivated Grade 12 learners at the Raeleng Secondary School.

The Director-General, Mr Mveli, said that the National Oversight Visit Programme has been a critical mechanism that afforded education stakeholders an opportunity to engage on various issues that affect quality education in the country. The NDP, Critical Assessments, the National Strategy for Learner Attainment, District Capacity and Support and Role of Principals were some of the items tabled for robust discussion. The most critical aspect of these visits was to assess the state of readiness for the NSC Examinations.

One of the focus areas for the improvement of the sector is the implementation of the NDP. The meetings allowed the Department to monitor the effective implementation of the NDP in the various provinces and also ensured that principals were apprised on the NDP and its implementation. “We have to work collectively as a sector to improve the quality of education in the country. The sector is assessed on the level of learners’ critical thinking skills, problem solving skills, innovative skills and knowledge on social justice and human rights values. It is our responsibility to equip learners with these skills for them to be prepared for tertiary education when they leave the schooling system,” remarked Mr Mveli.





# DBE hosts second Annual Media Stakeholder Engagement session

The Department of Basic Education, through the Chief Directorate: Media Liaison and National and Provincial Communication, hosted the second Annual Media Stakeholder Engagement Initiative in Pretoria on 18 October 2016. Mr Elijah Mhlanga, Chief Director for Media Liaison and National and Provincial Communication, was accompanied by the Deputy Minister of Basic Education, Mr Enver Surty, the Director-General, Mr Mathanzima Mweli and various other DBE Senior Managers to address education journalists from various media houses from across South Africa and the Provincial Education Departments' Heads of Communication and Media Liaison Officers on various basic education sector programmes.

Mr Mweli focussed his discussions on some of the priority areas, progress made, as well as the remaining challenges in the basic education sector. He reflected on the National Oversight Visit Programme that afforded the Department an opportunity to engage with Provincial and District Officials on the various issues that affect quality education in the country, as well as the state of readiness for the NSC examinations. "Issues on access redress and equity, gender equity and inclusive education in particular, remain a priority," Mr Mweli said.

Deputy Minister Surty said that good news stories such as the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP), the DBE workbooks that enhance Literacy and Numeracy skills of learners from Grade R to 9; and the strides made with Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in digitising curriculum resources in education, should be communicated by all stakeholders. "I agree with Minister Motshekga that education is a societal issue and that the formation of partnerships is therefore crucial for us not to fail the South African learner." Deputy Minister Surty referred to the co-operation between the DBE, Provincial Education Departments, sister Departments such as Health, Social Development and Higher Education and Training, as well as the various private sector partnerships that are in place to enhance teaching and learning across the country. The continued partnership with the media is therefore important to share matters on basic education with fellow South Africans. "We are steadily moving away from mediocrity and therefore need to enhance cohesion and discuss issues in a robust and dignified manner to promote rational discourse based on a festival of ideas, diversity and inclusivity," the Deputy Minister concluded.

Dr Rufus Poliah, Chief Director for National Assessments and Public Examinations, gave an informative presentation on the 2016 National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations' state of readiness and Ms Zarene Govender, Director for the Second Chance Matric Support Programme gave an overview of this programme which was launched by the Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga, in January 2016. Dr Moses Simelane, Director for Inclusive Education presented on Inclusive Education, as well as the Three Stream Model, whilst Mr Ramasedi Mafoko, Director for Physical Planning and Rural Schooling, addressed the topic of school infrastructure and maintenance.





# Final countdown to 2016 NSC Examinations



The DBE has put final preparations in place and is primed to administer the 2016 Grade 12 NSC examinations. The Department has been hard at work to ensure that an appropriate and enabling environment is set to enable the seamless administration of the 2016 NSC examinations.

During September 2016, a team from the DBE briefed the Council of Education Ministers (CEM), as well as the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education on the state of readiness for this year's examinations. With a total of 677,141 registered full-time and 150,183 part-time candidates, the 2016 examinations will see a total of 9,216 additional candidates from the number that wrote the examinations in 2015.

The education sector has recorded tremendous improvements in access, redress and equity; and learning outcomes have shown an upward trend in national, regional and international tests. This is as result of the Department's focus on system readiness while implementing programmes that ensured that learners received sufficient support which included measures to complement normal teaching and learning programmes to bring about improvements in performance. These include language support, subject specific content support, the tracking of learner performance and support for progressed learners.

The Basic Education Portfolio Committee conducted a week long oversight visit to the Limpopo Province from 19 to 23 September where they personally took stock of some of the steps taken to prevent the leakage of the 2016 question papers. Minister Motshekga will announce the results of NSC examinations on 04 January 2017.

## The South African Council for Educators (SACE) hosts annual fun walk/run at Fountains Valley in Pretoria

The South African Council for Educators (SACE) hosted its annual 8km fun run/walk, which took place at Fountains Valley in Pretoria on 15 October 2016, in celebration of South African teachers; and in support of the annual commemoration of Teachers' Month and the Teacher Appreciation and Support Programme (TASP). The event attracted a large number of educators from the Gauteng Province and surrounding provinces.

Ms Gugulethu Mbhele from the National Teachers Union, and also the SACE Chancellor, said, "The fun walk is all about promoting a healthy lifestyle for educators. This is also a means of relieving the many pressures teachers encounter in schools." Aerobic exercise sessions, led by the Virgin Active team, also took place during the fun run/walk activities.

SACE CEO, Mr Rej Brijraj, thanked the various partners for their contributions in making the event a great success, whilst also utilising the opportunity to emphasise the importance of regular exercise to maintain a healthy lifestyle.



# Digital Education Show Africa 2016 shares ideas on the digital learning process



The Digital Exhibition Show Africa took place at the Sandton Convention Centre from 18 to 19 October 2016. The Digital Education Show Africa is one of the platforms where all aspects of education are brought together to deliver greater learning outcomes both inside and outside the classroom. The show featured over 2,000 global and local producers of e-Learning solutions and other education stakeholders.

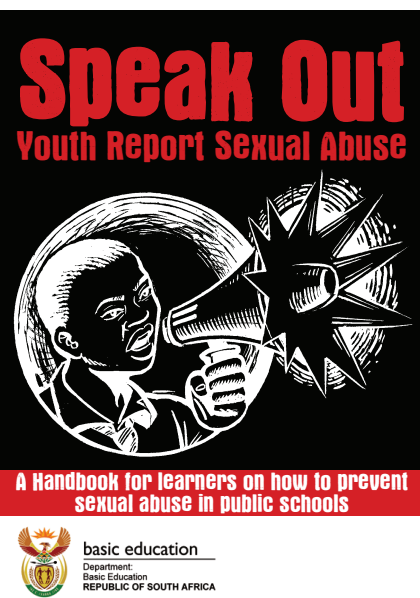
The Show was created as an exhibition and a platform to exchange ideas for all educators interested in innovative solutions on how to normalise the digital learning process. Mr Seliki Tlhabane, Chief Director of Curriculum Implementation and Quality Improvement Enhancement Programmes, delivered the opening address during the Show. Officials from the DBE and the Provincial Education Departments also attended the event.

Click on the below link for additional information:

<http://www.terrapinn.com/exhibition/digital-education-africa/index.stm>



# Gender Dialogues



Gender Dialogues are scheduled to take place at the DBE in Pretoria on 25 October 2016 as part of an awareness campaign aimed at providing officials with information relating to violence against vulnerable groups such as women and children, in preparation towards the *16 Days of Activism* for No Violence Against Women and Children campaign.

*The 16 Days of Activism* for No Violence Against Women and Children campaign is an international campaign that annually commences on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women; and ends on 10 December, International Human Rights Day. The Campaign aims to raise awareness about gender-based violence (GBV) as a human rights issue at local, national and international levels.

The support for the campaign, led by the Department of Women (DoW), has become an annual event at the DBE. The theme this year focuses on bringing the boy child to the fore of all gender equity discussions and interventions in basic education.

## National Nutrition Week promoted healthy lifestyles in South African schools



As South Africa observed National Nutrition Week (NNW) from 09 to 15 October 2016, Ms Neo Rakwena, Director for the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) and her team undertook visits to the Limpopo and Eastern Cape provinces to educate learners about the importance of preparing a balanced diet. This year, NNW was celebrated under the theme: *“Love your beans; eat dry beans, peas and lentils!”*

Ms Carina Müller, Chief Education Specialist in the National School Nutrition Programme also took part in SABC Kids News, which was broadcast on SABC 1 on 13 October 2016, to promote National Nutrition Week and to highlight the importance of including legumes and pulses as part of a balanced nutritious diet. Legumes include green beans, peas, peanuts and dry beans such as soya beans, kidney beans, black beans, split-peas, chickpeas and lentils. The term “pulses” is limited to crops harvested solely for dry seeds.

Dry beans, peas and lentils are healthy as they are a good and very economical source of plant protein, which is low in fat and naturally free of cholesterol; they are also good sources of B vitamins; and they are rich in fibre which helps to improve digestion. Legumes should be eaten at least four times a week. To “love your beans” means to eat them regularly in order to reap the many health benefits that they have to offer.

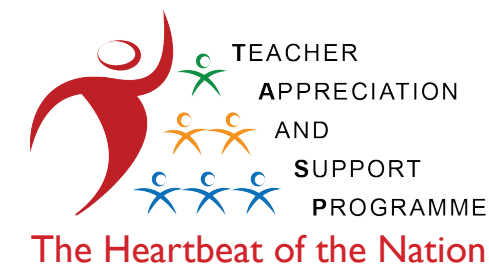
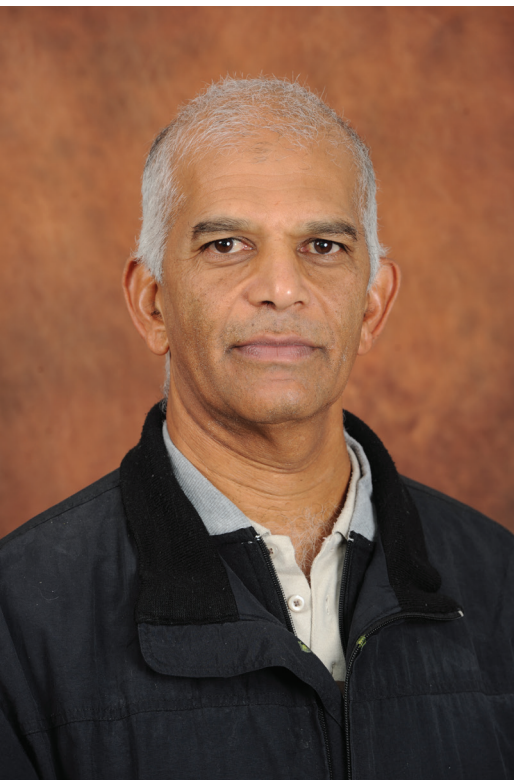
The NNW is one of the opportunities utilised by the DBE to highlight the successes of the Department’s NSNP programme in providing daily nutritious meals to over 9.6 million learners in the poorest schools (Quintile 1,2,3 and 4) nationwide. This is a formidable achievement in addressing food insecurity in impoverished households across South Africa.





# Tales Untold: Saluting the commitment of teachers beyond Teacher Month in turning the schooling system around

## By Mr Haroon Mahomed



Mr Haroon Mahomed, Director for Continuing Professional Teacher Development, shared the highlights of his experience in the teaching profession before joining the Department in 2005:

“I became Interested in education during my schooling years because I wanted to contribute to a better education system without discrimination in schools and to uplift the community. I commenced with a BA degree with English and History as my major subjects at the University of Durban-Westville. Due to bereavement in my family, I enrolled at the College of Education nearer to my home. A group of us were removed from the College due to our objecting against the banning of newspapers (*The Post* and *The World*), but I was able to complete my degree through UNISA and to obtain a Higher Diploma, as well as my Master’s Degree at Wits University. I was involved in alternative education projects to create a non-racial education system and taught at three secondary schools, as well as the College of Education and in leadership positions in tertiary education. I furthermore, played, coached and administered soccer at all levels.

My love for the profession increased when I achieved good pass rates in all my classes through the use of teacher led and student involved methods of teaching. I was a steering committee member in the formation of the Progressive Teachers League in 1985, where we ran workshops on teaching methods, staff development, People’s English, language policy, coaching and the administration of school and provincial soccer teams - writing regular articles on democratic education and community development programmes for tertiary students.

South Africa has over 12 million learners in over 25,000 schools whose developmental needs need to be addressed. Teachers play a crucial role in meeting these needs in a context of a legacy of unequal provision and the pressures of change in the 21st century. This involves teaching in circumstances of poverty, social breakdown, difficult youth psychologies and parental demands, among others. Most South African teachers are committed to making a contribution to addressing these realities.

Teaching is also recognised as a foundational profession in the sense that all other professions, occupations and activities depend on the products of the education system. The contributions of teachers to deliver the necessary knowledge, skills, values and attitudes that are needed for social, political and economic development within the curriculum are important for the future development of our learners. It is important for teachers to be role models in the range of tasks they are expected to perform, the most critical one being teaching and learning. This can be achieved by ensuring that time on task is adhered to, lessons are well prepared and delivered, by ongoing professional and self-development, strong communication channels with parents and community, and partnerships to strengthen the school experience for learners.

The profession as a whole should ensure that teaching is regarded as a leading profession on par with professions such as Medicine, Legal and Engineering. Teachers should also address issues of social cohesion and create environments free from discrimination based on race, gender, inequality levels, disability, violence and unemployment. The ICT environment, globalisation, economic and exchange opportunities in Africa and globally, have brought about new opportunities. The education and training system, of which schooling is the major part, needs to be responsive to these opportunities. This can’t be done by teachers and schools alone, but they require the support of society, the private sector and Government. We look forward to parents, communities and the private sector providing increased support to teachers on an ongoing basis, so that motivation and commitment can increase and lead to quality education for all.”



# Provincial Round-up

## Gauteng Province



According to the Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) it has done everything possible to provide an opportunity for each learner to do well in the 2016 NSC examinations. Gauteng has registered the second highest number of candidates, after KwaZulu-Natal, and a total of 112,192 full-time candidates and 41,781 part-time candidates will sit for the exams. In total, there are 153,973 Grade 12 learners in the Province.

The Department has placed an emphasis on the Secondary Schools Improvement Programme (SSIP), which has provided opportunities for intensified study and drill sessions aimed at increased content coverage, as well as intensified examination practices.

The GDE is offering several incentives to encourage learners to aim high during the exams. The top three achievers in each township school will automatically obtain a full bursary which includes registration fees, tuition fees and prescribed textbooks to the amount of R55,000 per academic year at a higher education institution. In addition, each school that scores a 100% pass rate will automatically become a full ICT school with smart boards, tablets with educational content for learners, and laptops for educators, to enhance teaching and learning.

## Upcoming Events

- October 2016: Teacher Appreciation Month
- 21 October 2016: The Imperial Road Safety 1000<sup>th</sup> School event will be taking place as part of the Safe Scholars Programme in Atteridgeville
- 21 October 2016: The Supersport Let's Play hand-over of a new playing field will be taking place at Stretford Primary School, Orange Farm in the Gauteng Province
- 25 October 2016: An information session on the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children campaign will be taking place at the DBE in Pretoria
- 26 October to 29 November 2016: 2016 National Senior Certificate Examinations
- 28 October 2016: World Teachers' Month will culminate in a gala event on 28 October 2016 hosted by SACE at their offices in Centurion
- 10 – 16 December 2016: The South African Schools National Championships (Summer Games) will be taking place at Wits University in Johannesburg
- 04 January 2017: Ministerial Announcement of the 2016 National Senior Certificate Examinations Results
- 05 January 2017: Release of the 2016 National Senior Certificate Examinations Results



## 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.

