



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



NEWSLETTER

National School Deworming Programme launched

Government and the private sector joined forces to fight against the prevalence of soil-transmitted worms in learners across South Africa. Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, joined by various representatives from the Departments of Health and Social Development, Johnson & Johnson, the World Health Organisation and education stakeholders, officially launched the National School Deworming Programme at Zimasa Community School in Cape Town on 16 February 2016. The Programme will reach over 6 million learners from Grade R to 7 who are in quintile 1-3 primary schools. These are schools that are part of the DBE's National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) and is intended to further deepen the gains of this most successful and lauded pro-poor programme.

The aim of the Programme is to improve children's health, reduce health barriers to learning and assist learners to stay in school and to receive quality education. The Programme further intends to promote attitudes and behaviours that will positively impact on the current and future health of learners.

Infection by worms (soil-transmitted helminths) is widespread throughout the world and millions of people are affected by intestinal worms. The worms live in the intestines and can cause serious illnesses such as long-term retardation of mental and physical development, reduced scholastic progress and malnutrition due to reduced appetite or poor food absorption. In very severe infections, it may even cause death.

Addressing various education stakeholders, Minister Motshekga said that the launch of the Deworming Programme in schools is derived from the Integrated School Health Programme (ISHP), which was approved by the Council of Education Ministers with a common goal of supporting learner well-being. "As part of the implementation of the Integrated School Health Programme, we have adopted a three-pronged approach in accordance with the recommendations of the World Health Organisation. These include: health education, which includes the type of worms, the way in which transmission takes place and the prevention measures that can be taken; hand washing integrated into the workbooks; regular deworming of children in schools; and the provision of adequate sanitation, safe water and the maintenance thereof to be provided to schools," said Minister Motshekga.

Click on the below link to read the full article:

<http://www.education.gov.za/NationalSchoolDewormingProgrammelunched/tabid/968/Default.aspx>



Director-General to host a Global Development Partners' Forum to strengthen global partnerships



The Director-General of the DBE, Mr Mathanzima Mveli, will be hosting a Global Development Partners' Forum on 24 February 2016 at the DBE in Pretoria. The purpose of the engagement is to brief current and potential global partners on the repositioning of the basic education sector. Mobilising development partners is in line with the strategic imperatives of the *National Development Plan (NDP) Vision 2030*, which calls for a broad, multi-dimensional framework of action for changing the current development trajectory of South Africa. It identifies the failure to implement policies and an absence of broad partnerships as the main causes for the slow progress in eliminating poverty and reducing inequality.

The *Paris Declaration for Aid Effectiveness*, which, amongst others, calls for development partners to harmonise their interventions to avoid high transaction costs for beneficiaries. It is therefore envisioned that a direct *en masse* (rather than individual) interaction with global development partners, to familiarise themselves with the Department's priorities and learn about focal areas for future investment as well as exploring ways of optimising processes to improve implementation of donor-funded programmes, will lessen transactional costs for the Department.

Being a major priority of government, basic education in South Africa attracts a significant amount of interest from international donor agencies, foreign departments of education, and international research institutions. Such interest can be in the form of donor funds and technical support for specific causes and programmes within the DBE, the Provincial Departments of Education, as well as research institutions and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) operating in the sector. By convening a Development Partners' Forum, the DBE aims to optimise the benefits of the existing international interest and promote a better co-ordinated utilisation of the international relations platform to enhance the quality of basic education through sharing of, and exposure to, best practices in different platforms the world over.

Cricket partnership is launched to transform cricket in South African schools

The DBE, Sports and Recreation South Africa (SRSA) and Cricket South Africa (CSA) have joined forces to accelerate the development and transformation of cricket in South Africa. This collaborative initiative aims to address the challenges of transforming schools sports to accelerate cricket playing opportunities and thereby increasing the pool of cricketers at school level. This partnership was launched at the Bramfischerville Cricket Oval in Soweto on 17 February 2016.

The DBE remains committed in ensuring that all public schools participate in the School Sport Programme. A multi-stakeholder meeting, involving the Congress of South African Students (COSAS), teacher unions, School Governing Bodies and various other education stakeholders took place at Kievits Kroon Country Estate from 23 to 24 January 2016, to consolidate a plan to improve mass school sport participation in South Africa. The multi-stakeholder meeting was also aimed at ensuring that the School Sport Programme is integrated with the curriculum throughout the school year. The integration of physical education and school sport participation will make sport accessible to all children who attend schools (regardless of their physical ability, gender, socio-economic or ethno-cultural backgrounds). This integration will also build on children's early experiences by ensuring that they develop their physical and motor capacities to lead active and healthy lives; will help to prevent non-communicable diseases; and will provide children with opportunities to have fun and be active whilst reinforcing their desire to make physical activity a lifelong habit. During the meeting, Cricket South Africa (CSA) also pledged their support to cricket in schools. The CSA will work in collaboration with the DBE to develop the sport in all schools for learners from disadvantaged communities to be able to participate in cricket.

The implementation of the School Sport Programme within the schooling system has been used as one of the most fundamental approaches to promote diversity and social cohesion among learners. The two departments host the National School Sport Championships annually, reaching out to approximately 6 000 learners from across all nine provinces.



Tales Untold: Ms Nompumelelo Mthombeni on the power of forgiveness



“Being raised in Kwa-Mhlanga in the Mpumalanga Province as a young woman has taught me to appreciate, accept and respect other people. I personally, feel that the promotion of humanity in our society is essential. In my view, forgiveness appears to be an integral part of interpersonal communication, which helps me to sustain joy and happiness in my life. “To forgive does not mean that you condone, agree with or give approval to anyone or anything. Rather, it is a powerful acknowledgement to yourself to move forward,” says Raymond David Salas. I live by this quote because I was born into a happy marriage and sent to one of the best boarding schools at the age of eight, only to return home to find that my parents were going through a divorce process, which left me bitter and angry. However, as I matured, my faith and religion taught me how to forgive others for me to remain focused and determined to achieve all the goals I set for myself.

My journey with the DBE started in March 2015 after obtaining a degree in Sport Management at the Tshwane University of Technology. I am currently serving as an intern in the Sport and Enrichment Directorate. Part of my duties in the directorate is to promote school sport participation and to encourage learners to be involved in arts and cultural activities of their choice.

Being in the Sport and Enrichment Directorate in the education sector motivates me to continue supporting programmes that promote mass participation and a healthy lifestyle filled with activities that assists to keep our children off the streets and away from engaging in delinquent behaviours during and after school. Reading develops the mind; it helps us discover new things and develops the imagination. Books, magazines, newspapers and even the Internet are great learning tools. Just like the body, the mind is also a muscle and it also needs exercise - and that is reading.”

GEPF on pension retirement reforms

As a Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF) member, officials are not affected by the new pension retirement reforms. GEPF benefits will remain the same and will not change as the new law only affects provident fund members, and not pension fund members. The GEPF is appealing to members not to panic and resign with a view to cash your benefit before 01 March 2016. This is important to note because payment and resignation processes cannot be reversed once they have been made. The new law does not affect a GEPF member who wants to resign before or after 01 March 2016. As a norm, all GEPF members who opt to resign in the future will still receive all their resignation benefits (once-off lump sum) as per Fund policies. Members, who decide to retire with the GEPF, will still receive their once-off lump sum (one third) while two thirds will still remain with GEPF to receive it on a monthly basis as a monthly pension. All resignation benefits are therefore unaffected and safe with the GEPF.

A provident fund pays only a once-off lump sum (gratuity) and a pension fund pays the once-off lump sum and a monthly pension (annuity). The new law harmonises the two; this means it changes the private sector pension to also have a once off lump sum, as well as a monthly payment, to ensure that all pension systems are aligned, and that South Africans can have enough money for longer periods instead of depleting their funds.

South African Disability Alliance Awards – awarding those who are progressive in disability mainstreaming



The South African Disability Alliance (SADA) invites applications from companies or Government Departments for the 2016 Disability Awards. The SADA is a body that is made up of the twelve national organisations that represent disability in South Africa. This organisation, which was formerly known as the Federal Council on Disability, has since been reconstituted to be a body of consensus and the voice of the disability sector in South Africa.

SADA is committed to assisting business in understanding disability and incorporating people with disabilities in opportunities, facilities and activities. SADA represents a constituency of approximately 8% of the country’s population and the demographics thereof. It is a proud body whose mandate is to develop the capacity, opportunity and empowerment of its collective membership.

The closing date for nominations is 29 February 2016 and the presentation of the Awards will be taking place on 11 March 2016. Contact Mr Jace Nair from SADA for additional information: Cellphone no.: 060 967 0258 or E-mail: secretary@sadisability-alliance.co.za.

Be aware of cybercrime



According to the South African Police Service (SAPS), South Africa lost about R5.8 billion to cybercrime during 2014. As many as 47% of South Africans who use smartphones have fallen victim to cybercrime and internet banking is the number one target of cybercriminals in South Africa. Cybercrimes are criminal activities carried out by means of computers or the internet. Computer viruses and malware, online scams and phishing e-mails are the most common approaches that criminals use to get the personal information needed to commit these crimes.

According to the SAPS, cybercrime is no longer about those who seek to access computer systems for fun or to prove that it can be done. The criminals behind these crimes are organised and take advantage of those using internet services. Whether this is for financial gain or as threats to children, the effects of cybercrime can be devastating and can have a negative impact on the economy.

The SAPS shares the following advice to protect yourself against cybercrime: Do not download e-mail attachments or click on suspicious links. It can result in information being leaked and sensitive information being distorted. Check your Facebook security settings and choose to be notified via SMS or email when someone tries to gain access to your account from an unknown device. Beware of fake online job advertisements where your personal details and a photograph are required. Organisations must continually monitor network traffic. Put a strong password on your mobile phone to help protect your personal data. Only download applications from a trustworthy source. Use secure payment methods when making purchases from your mobile phone.

South Africans can report cybercrimes anonymously by calling the Crime Stop Call Centre on 08600 10111. Crime Stop is a national contact centre staffed with well-trained investigative interviewers, who all have at least basic detective training.

Provincial Round-up

Western Cape



BETTER TOGETHER.

Learners in the Western Cape will be receiving teaching and learning in quick access pop-up classrooms. This was after JP-IK (Pty) Ltd donated the classrooms to the Western Cape Education Department (WCED) for evaluation. The donation is worth R1.2 million at R400 000 per classroom. JP-IK (Pty) Ltd is an international supplier of eLearning systems and has donated three technology-enabled, pop-up classrooms to support the Western Cape's eLearning initiatives. The classrooms take about a day to erect. Ms Debbie Schäfer, the Western Cape Education MEC, received the donation on behalf of the Department at an official handover ceremony held at Facreton Primary School in Maitland East recently. The schools benefitting from the donation are Facreton Primary, Melton Primary in Eerste River and Rouxville Primary in Kuils River. Each classroom includes an interactive white board; a projector and stand; a teacher computer; and a 30 x two-in-one Wi-Fi-enabled device, desks and chairs. The WCED's Cape Teaching and Leadership Institute and the Metro East Education District will also use the classrooms at Melton and Rouxville for teacher training and support.

KwaZulu-Natal



The Provincial Education Department (PED) in KwaZulu-Natal has committed to looking into the "education crisis" in Newcastle after parents from rural and farm schools raised concerns about the merging of schools in their areas with schools in town. The parents said their children were now forced to walk long distances to school as the scholar transport system for primary school pupils was not properly co-ordinated, and high school pupils had no transport system at all. It was agreed that pupils from high schools would share buses with those in primary school until they were provided with their buses. Some pupils, who have to walk 20 kilometres to school, arrive late and tired. The schools merged as part of the transformation of small and non-viable schools and do not only affect schools in Newcastle, but other non-viable schools in the Province. The PED remains committed to ensure that every school has the acceptable number of pupils and resources.

Upcoming Events

- 24 February 2016: Development Partner's Forum at the DBE in Pretoria
- 27 February 2016: National Teaching Awards (NTAs) at Gallagher Convention Centre, Midrand
- 08 March 2016: Closing date for the call for comments on the proposed 2018 School Calendar
- 14 March 2016: Minister's Excellence in Schools, Districts and NSNP Awards at the Presidential Guesthouse in Pretoria