



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



NEWSLETTER

Release of the Ministerial Task Team Report on “posts for sale” investigation postponed



The Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshega, decided to release the Ministerial Task Team (MTT) Report on the “posts for sale” investigation on 15 April 2016, after consulting with teacher unions and School Governing Body associations earlier this week.

After requests to delay the release of the MTT final report to allow teacher unions and individuals implicated in the report to rebut and/or make formal representations to the MTT, the Minister sought legal opinion in the matter, and was advised that the importance of the work done by the MTT cannot be compromised because of perceived and/or inadequate consultations and/or interactions.

Click on the below link for the full article with timeframes included:

<http://www.education.gov.za/Newsroom/MediaReleases/tabid/347/ctl/Details/mid/3661/ItemID/3716/Default.aspx>

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 Department of Basic Education (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. As the majority of South African schools are located in rural areas it is necessary to dedicate resources to support these schools to effectively address disadvantaged learners. This Roundtable discussion will contribute greatly to the direction the sector takes in planning for the provision of quality education in rural schools.

In South Africa it is important to view rural education from a social justice perspective. This does not mean that urban education didn't have challenges in the pre-democratic era, but that challenges in rural schools were further exacerbated by the fact that the policies of the day denied educational opportunities to Africans living in rural areas. Rural schools were systematically and intentionally deprived of the most basic resources. Most of these schools had inadequate resources, poor infrastructure, overcrowded classrooms, unqualified and under-qualified teachers and lacked basic necessities like electricity, effective sanitation and running water. Learners had to walk long distances to school, drop out and repetition rates were high, and opportunities for secondary education were scarce and a large number of children did not attend school at all.

"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.



Social, Financial and Entrepreneurship Education



Social, Financial & Entrepreneurship Education for Youth



THE BANKING
ASSOCIATION
SOUTH AFRICA



The DBE will be co-hosting the Regional Seminar on Social, Financial and Entrepreneurship Education for Children and Youth in Southern Africa, along with the Banking Association South Africa (BASA) and Aflatoun International, at the DBE in Pretoria from 06 to 08 April 2016.

The theme of the seminar is embedded in the subject Economic and Management Sciences (EMS) and is supported by the programmes and projects implemented by BASA in all nine provinces, which has been done since 2009 in close collaboration with national, provincial and district EMS subject specialists. Some of these programmes are: The StarSaver Financial Literacy programme, Finlit Spelling Bee, EduCamp, Pen Pals make Saving so Cool! and iMali Ants, amongst others.

The aim of the seminar is to co-ordinate the various programmes nationally; to plan for 2016; to engage with stakeholders; to share best practices; to keep abreast of current pedagogy; and to effectively implement the EMS Curriculum and Assessment Policy. The seminar also aims to promote dialogue and strategies on how to align social education, financial literacy and entrepreneurship education in schools with the Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Global Action Programme (GAP), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), *Education 2030* and the National Development Plan (NDP) with the view of establishing a SADC Regional Expert Network on social, financial and entrepreneurship education. The Regional Seminar for Southern Africa will bring together leading experts, policy-makers, educators, young entrepreneurs and financial service providers to define critical issues inhibiting the inclusive socio-economic empowerment of young people and to identify innovative practices in addressing financial exclusion, unemployment as well as financial illiteracy.



Physical Education Month is a call to South Africans to become active and healthy



Physical Education Institute of South Africa

The DBE, together with the Physical Education Institute of South Africa, hosted the 2016 Physical Education Symposium on 01 and 02 April 2016 as an advocacy and sector mobilisation programme around the implementation of physical education, as Physical Education Month will be commemorated from 06 April to 10 May 2016. The main objectives of this commemoration month are to elevate the status of physical education in South Africa; to generate public awareness of the benefits of physical activity in the prevention of non-communicable diseases; and to promote healthy behaviour and lifestyles and address health-related issues through sports and physical activity. Communities and schools are encouraged to celebrate Physical Education Month, as well as

Physical Education Day on 10 May 2016. The start of this special month on 06 April 2016 also coincides with the World Day for Physical Activity as declared by the World Health Organisation (WHO) during the 54th World Health Assembly in 2002.

During Physical Education Month all schools, including Early Childhood Development centres, are encouraged to participate in curriculum orientated physical activities. Parents are encouraged to lead this process by displaying and engaging in physical activities, like using stairs instead of lifts, limit the use of video games and encourage, as well as participate in free play activities with their children. The DBE has taken deliberate steps to ensure that physical education constitutes an integral part of the whole learning experience. Through the Curriculum Assessment Policy Statement learners have access to physical education as a component in the Life Orientation area and this contributes to the Integrated School Sport Programme which is the pillar and bedrock of sport in the country.

Tales Untold - Leading a healthy lifestyle through athletics and physical education by Bongani Zondi



Bongani Zondi, who hails from KwaZulu-Natal, joined the Department in September 2008 in the Enrichment and Sport in Education Directorate, after teaching Grade 12 Biology. Well known for his involvement on the Education Athletics Club Committee, and being an ardent Comrades Marathon athlete, he offers some insight into physical education and the importance of sport during Physical Education Month:

“I started coaching and running at University. I will be doing my ninth Comrades Marathon this year and I am looking forward to obtaining a green number next year. You receive a green number after finishing ten Comrades Marathon races. I have recently completed my seventh Two Oceans Ultra-Marathon on 26 March 2016 in Cape Town. This is one of the most exciting and scenic races in South Africa with a number of challenging points, most notably ascending Chapmans Peak and Constantia Nek. There are two athletes that have inspired me over the years: i.e. Haile Gebrselassie and Hicham El Guerrouj. I had the privilege of meeting Gebrselassie (27 times World Record holder in athletics, both in track and road races) in Cape Town when I participated in the Two Oceans Ultra-Marathon last year. This was one of the highlights of my life and therefore a highly inspirational moment for me as an athlete and a coach.

Being in the Education Athletics Club (EAC) helps me to manage stress. Discipline and athletics go hand in hand; in order to win athletes are forced to adhere to strict exercise routines. Taking part in sport is beneficial to the body; exercising causes the body to produce endorphins and chemicals that can help a person to feel peaceful and happy. It also gives you a true sense of accomplishment and pride at having achieved a certain goal. My involvement in sport and athletics in particular, sits very well with my area of employment in the Enrichment and Sport in Education Directorate. I contribute to ensuring that schools are

engaged in school sport and physical education, which is an integral part of the holistic development of a learner. School is where talent is identified, career choices made (including careers in sport) and good habits learnt. Given the growing problem of obesity, the habit of leading an active lifestyle can be developed at a young age through the participation in sport.

The EAC was formally registered with Athletics Gauteng North (AGN) in 2011. This heralded the beginning of greater things in the field of athletics within the Department. The club currently has about 65 registered and licenced athletes. The overall goal of the club is to support and promote social cohesion within the Department through sport, and athletics in particular. The club is further intended to: promote social transformation in sport and recreational activities in the Department; to support the Employee Wellness Programme; to encourage, support and manage the participation of staff in athletics to nurture and improve employees’ abilities, skills and talents in competitive and recreational activities; to establish a culture of athletics in the Department; and to build relationships with other clubs in our province to assist in building a culture of athletics and a stronger province and Athletics South Africa.

All staff members are encouraged to join and be part of this exciting sporting family, as well as social responsibility, wellness development and nation building. The club accommodates everyone, from hikers to joggers to runners. Training sessions are ongoing from Mondays to Thursdays, starting at 16:30. There are two venues or routes that are used: the Union Buildings and Paul Kruger Street, starting at the DBE, down Paul Kruger Street towards Capital Park. This is the targeted route for group training walks/runs.”

DBE Officials that would like to join the EAC can contact Ms Boitumelo Madie at X3380 or Mr Bongani Zondi at X3447.

April is Freedom Month and Democracy Week



SOUTH AFRICA

Freedom Day, observed on 27 April in South Africa, serves to commemorate the country's first democratic post-Apartheid elections, held in 1994. The DBE, in partnership with the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) will be implementing a Democracy Week programme from 20-27 April 2016 to commemorate Freedom Month, where the IEC will run various activities in schools throughout the country.

The annual Schools Democracy Week (SDW) is part of a joint project between the Electoral Commission of South Africa and the DBE to promote electoral democracy among learners. Learners will engage in civic education and voter registration activities during this earmarked week which ends on the 22nd anniversary of South Africa's first democratic election.

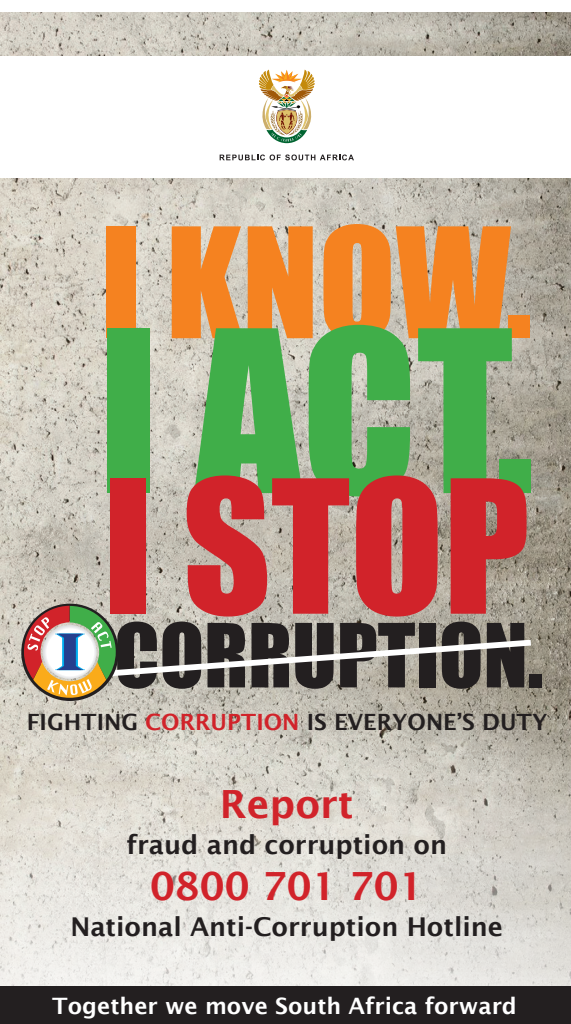
The Electoral Democracy Toolkit and lessons are provided to schools as part of School Democracy Month to prepare learners to become active, engaged and responsible members of South Africa's democracy. Through these lessons and co-curricular activities, learners learn about democracy, their rights and responsibilities as voters, how to register to vote, how to vote, how to think critically about democratic issues, and how to make the best use of social media as part of their participation in our democracy. The lessons are CAPS compliant within the Life Orientation FET course. The specific topic these lessons fulfil is "Democracy and Human Rights". Under this topic learners look at principles, processes and procedures for democratic participation; responsible citizenship; the role of media in a democratic society; clarify our own values and beliefs, and democratic structures.

Click on the links to the Democracy month page on the DBE website:

[Becoming a good citizen: Electoral Democracy Toolkit for Teachers Grade 10-12](#)

[Not too young: Teaching electoral democracy to young South Africans](#)

Let's fight corruption together



In South Africa the fight against corruption is one of the major priorities of Government as it has a detrimental effect on efforts to deliver effective services to the people. Government, through the Justice, Crime, Prevention and Security (JCPS) Cluster has taken a zero tolerance stance towards corruption in both the public and private sector. The scourge of corruption is a societal issue that must be confronted head on by everyone as “fighting corruption is everyone’s duty”.

Corruption hinders social and economic development and increases poverty by diverting domestic and foreign investment away from where it is most needed. The National Development Plan (NDP), our *Vision for 2030* (Chapter 14), speaks of a society where citizens are able to hold their leaders to account. It calls for leaders in Government, business and civil society to conduct themselves with integrity and that they should be held to high ethical standards. Corruption has the potential to derail and undo the efforts of our country in moving South Africa forward. We all have a role to play in fighting corruption. By fighting corruption we lay the foundation for a more equitable, inclusive and prosperous future for all. Our collective actions can stop corruption in its tracks. Unchecked corruption can lead to a slowing of investment and can disrupt economic growth. Corruption hurts the poor as it impacts on services and delivery; it 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. Government has established capable and dedicated institutions to fight against corruption and ensure that perpetrators are brought to book and that measures are put in place to detect corruption as it happens and even after it has occurred. Government has also put in place relevant legislative framework to deal with this scourge.

Regional Round-up

Gauteng



The Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) is hoping to make the days of parents filling in forms and waiting in long queues to register their children for school a thing of the past thanks to a new online registration system. The new GDE admissions website (and smartphone app) allows parents to submit applications online. Once you have access to the GDE admissions website, you first have to register your details to receive a username and password. Ideally, the site will show you the schools nearest to you for first preference to be given to parents and children living and/or working in the area. After submitting all the necessary details and registering, you will receive an SMS or e-mail with an automated waiting list number and information on your child’s application status. You can also use the waiting list number to view your application status online. Over 1 000 applications have already been submitted.

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