



basic education

Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



## NEWSLETTER

# Progress made in delivering school infrastructure in terms of the Regulations relating to the Minimum Norms and Standards for Public Schools Infrastructure



The basic education sector has been plagued with infrastructure challenges as the Department of Basic Education (DBE) and all Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) seek to not only accommodate the huge gains made in terms of access to basic education but also to deal with inappropriate or inadequate infrastructure. “Despite many challenges, progress has been made due, in part, to the immense political will and the efforts of those officials who have been working tirelessly to address the backlogs”, said Minister Motshekga during a media briefing in Pretoria on 14 November 2016, where feedback was provided on the progress being made in delivering school infrastructure in terms of the regulations relating to the Minimum Norms and Standards for Public Schools Infrastructure.

The DBE published the *Regulations Relating to Minimum Uniform Norms and Standards for Public Schools Infrastructure* during November 2013. This was the first time that Government had set itself targets of this nature in terms of school infrastructure and it was done because the sector acknowledged that the status quo could not continue where schools did not have access to water, electricity or sanitation. It was with this in mind; and with a determination to shake the sector into action, that the DBE and PEDs set ambitious targets for the provision of water, sanitation and electricity to all schools as well as the eradication of inappropriate structures, such as mud schools, asbestos schools and “plankie” schools.

In acknowledging the backlogs and in a bid to fast track the provision of school infrastructure, a multitude of programmes specifically targeted at the provision of infrastructure have been undertaken by Government.

The sector provides infrastructure through two main programmes, namely: the Provincial Schools Build Programme (PSBP) and the Accelerated School Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (ASIDI). The PSBP is implemented by provinces and it targets the provision of basic services, new schools, additions to existing schools and the upgrading of services and maintenance. This programme is funded through the Education Infrastructure Grant and the Provincial contribution through equitable share. The ASIDI programme is driven by the DBE to address schools infrastructure backlogs on all schools that do not meet the basic safety norms and standards; and it is funded through the Schools Infrastructure Backlogs Grant. The purpose of this specific programme is for the eradication of schools made entirely of inappropriate structures and the provision of basic level water, sanitation and electricity to schools that did not have these services.

“According to the Norms and Standards for the three-year target, all schools which do not have some form of sanitation facilities must be prioritised. This was extremely important because I am unsure how anyone can expect a child to be in school all day and not be able to go the toilet.” Minister Motshekga said.

As at October 2014, 474 schools without some form of access to sanitation facilities were identified. By the end of September 2016, 408 schools were provided with sanitation and Government continues to roll out and deliver on this progress. With regard to addressing the schools without any form of sanitation facilities, seven out of nine provinces have achieved the three-year target and these provinces are already addressing the seven-year targets. The two provinces that will not achieve their targets have implementation plans and projects that are at different stages of implementation to address the shortfall. One of the challenges that have been identified in these provinces is the rationalisation and school merger processes that are taking place, where some schools have been identified for merger and others for closure.

The target for the provision of water to schools, within the Norms and Standards, states that all schools must have access to some form of water supply. As at October 2014, 604 schools without some form of water supply were identified. By the end of September 2016, 523 of those identified schools were provided with access to water. Over and above the three-year target, provinces have moved to the seven-year target in this regard. Three provinces have achieved the three-year target; and four provinces had achieved the targets before the promulgation of the Norms and Standards.

“It could be said that like the provision of water, electricity requires an infrastructure network that lies outside the provision of what we as the Education Department can supply. In this regard we rely heavily and work closely with Eskom and the various municipalities.”, said Minister Motshekga.

According to the Norms and Standards for the three-year target, all schools must have access to some form of power supply. As at October 2014, 1131 schools without some form of power supply were identified. At the end of September 2016, 560 of these schools had been provided with a power supply. Five provinces achieved the three-year target, of which Gauteng and Western Cape had achieved their targets before the promulgation of the Norms and Standards.

“I would like to point out that we are very proud of the beautiful, state-of-the-art schools that we are building through the ASIDI programme to eradicate inappropriate structures. Anyone who has been to one of these beautiful schools will certainly agree that there is no doubt that as Government we truly are restoring dignity to education for our children. All of these schools comply fully with the Norms and Standards and I would encourage everyone to make an effort to visit at least one of these schools that we are building as the National Department and I hope it will instil the same kind of pride in our country in you as it does me.”, Minister Motshekga said.

As at October 2014, 510 schools were identified that were built entirely from materials such as asbestos, mud, metal and wood. In May 2015, an additional 189 schools were identified, however, it should be noted that these additional schools were not factored into the initial ASIDI programme funding and a request for additional funding was made to National Treasury. These schools will therefore be factored into the provincial programme and will hence be addressed outside of the set target period. By the end of September 2016, 217 ASIDI Schools were completed. Only two Provinces, Limpopo and North West, have achieved the three-year target.

Some of the original identified ASIDI schools are not considered viable schools and are forming part of the rationalisation and merger process. “I am sure you would agree it does not make sense to build a school when it does not have nearly enough children to occupy it. This in itself is a lengthy process that is guided by legislation and guidelines.”, said Minister Mothsekga during the briefing.

In order to continue to fastrack infrastructure delivery, the DBE and PEDs have increased technical capacity by employing built environmental specialists in provinces to fastrack the provision of sector infrastructure and to ensure the achievement of the three, seven and ten year targets. The DBE has also put in place mechanisms to support the provinces to ensure that there is efficient utilisation of existing funding resources through collaborative planning with other departments and public sector agencies. Mechanisms and protocols have also been established to enhance inter-sectoral collaboration with public sector and private sector entities to improve the sector infrastructure mandate.

“We all need to take into consideration that as far as the sector is concerned, this is the first time in education that we have had norms and standards for school infrastructure. While we are not moving as fast as we would like we need to make it abundantly clear that the political will is indeed there. I personally want to see every school meeting, and exceeding, the minimum norms and standards and am doing everything in my power to ensure that we get there. We remain committed to restoring the dignity to education by providing adequate school infrastructure for quality education.”, concluded the Minister.



# Call for public comment on Draft Policy for the Provision of Quality Education and Support to Children with Severe to Profound Intellectual Disability



callcentre@dbe.gov.za | call centre: 0800 202 933 | [www.education.gov.za](http://www.education.gov.za)



Since 2011, the DBE has been collaborating with relevant sister government departments, including the Departments of Health, Social Development, Transport, Public Works, Co-Operative Governance and Traditional Affairs; and the Western Cape Provincial Government to develop a *Draft Policy for the Provision of Quality Education and Support to Children with Severe to Profound Intellectual Disability* (SPID). Together with the Draft Policy, a Learning Programme has also been developed to guide caregivers on how to provide stimulation to children so as to maximise their development and learning. All relevant stakeholder bodies and members of the public are invited to submit comments to both draft documents by 09 December 2016.

In terms of the *Constitution*, access to basic education is a fundamental right without limitations and no child of compulsory school-going age should be discriminated against on the basis of disability. However, to date the majority of these children have not had access to public funded education and support. The purpose of this policy is therefore to provide a framework for inclusive, quality and developmental education of children with severe to profound intellectual disability who function at the lowest levels of development, and who attend special or ordinary schools, special care centres, Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres and home education.

The policy includes a learning programme for children with SPID that outlines early intervention for children from birth to four years within ECD programmes as well as within the compulsory educational age range from chronological age of five to 18 years. The programme also includes guidelines for early intervention, transition to supported employment and adult life. The learning programme takes into account critical cross field skills, the Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Values of the learning environment as well as HIV and AIDS awareness.

Comments must be submitted on the template that is provided and addressed to Mrs Marie Schoeman at [Schoeman.m@dbe.gov.za](mailto:Schoeman.m@dbe.gov.za) or at 012 357 4084. For any further enquiries, please contact Dr Moses Simelane at 012 357 4082 or Ms Monyane Chaane at 012 357 4105. Comments may also be faxed to 012 323 7749.

Click on the below link to view the draft policy:

<http://www.education.gov.za/Resources/Legislation/CallforCommentsDraftPolicyfortheProvisionofQualityEducationandSupporttoChildrenwithDisability.aspx>

# Count me in: together moving a non-violent South Africa forward

## **16 DAYS of Activism** for no violence against Women and Children



**25 November – 10 December**

**Together we move South Africa forward**

The DBE condemns violence and abuse against women and children within the education sector and beyond; and further pledges its continued support for the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children Campaign. The theme this year focuses on bringing the boy child to the fore of all gender equity discussions and interventions in basic education. A 16 Days of Activism of No Violence against Women and Children Breakfast Dialogue is therefore scheduled to take place at the DBE in Pretoria on 25 November 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 DBE has developed and rolled out the National School Safety Framework (NSSF), which is a tool for School Management Teams (SMT), including School Governing Bodies (SGB), on promoting a schooling environment that is conducive for learning. The NSSF includes components on how to manage and prevent all forms of violence, including homophobic bullying. The training of provincial and district officials around issues of bullying and gender-based violence have already been undertaken by the Department in 2015. Furthermore, advocacy material that addresses prevention of gender-based violence has also been developed.

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, 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 to ensure that activism against gender-based violence should be a year-long campaign and not limited to 16 days.

Deputy Director for Gender Equity, Ms Dululu Hlatshaneni, highlighted that combatting violence against women and children is everybody's responsibility and encouraged South Africans to pledge their support in ensuring that the perpetrators are being dealt with. "If we join hands in the fight against the scourge of gender violence, we will be making a contribution in creating violent free societies." Ms Hlatshaneni also acknowledged teachers for their role in addressing gender violence in schools. "The nature and quality of schools, classroom cultures and interactions also determine gender inequality in schools. Teachers continue to exhibit gendered behaviour, thereby providing learners with the prescription to learn their appropriate social roles whilst opportunities to fight these stereotypes are marginal and voluntary," explained Ms Hlatshaneni. Learners, teachers, parents and School Governing Bodies (SGBs), in particular, are called upon to speak out against abuse and to encourage silent victims to ensure that they receive help.



# 17<sup>th</sup> Annual National Teaching Awards are on track



## National Teaching Awards

The National Teaching Awards (NTAs) was conceptualised and launched in 2000 and is one of the ways in which the DBE acknowledges and encourages dedicated and caring teachers in their efforts to develop each learner as a citizen of a democratic, non-racial and non-sexist South Africa.

The provincial rounds of the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual NTAs have already taken place in the Limpopo (13 October 2016), North West (22 October 2016), Western Cape (04 November 2016) and Mpumalanga (11 November 2016) Provinces. The following provincial rounds will be hosted during the month of November 2016: the Eastern Cape Province (17 November 2016); the Free State Province (18 November 2016); and the Northern Cape Province (22 November 2016).

The adjudication process of the Prof Kader Asmal Excellence Award category will be taking place at the DBE in Pretoria on 23 November 2016. The Prof Kader Asmal Excellence Award seeks to recognise educators who demonstrate the key values that were a hallmark of Prof Asmal's leadership. These are: a demanding educational activist who leads by example; an educator with a conscience and a feel for social justice who takes or has taken a stand for an issue on the grounds of conscientiousness; an educator who displays intellectual tenacity and rigour and is creative and inspired towards visible delivery. Mrs Louise Asmal, the wife of the late Prof Kader Asmal, participates in the adjudication of all finalists and the selection of the national winner of the award.

The National Adjudication of the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual NTAs will be taking place at the DBE in Pretoria from 15 January 2017 to 22 January 2017.



## Vooruitsig, the new *darling* of Darling

The Deputy Minister of Basic Education, Mr Enver Surty, officially handed over Vooruitsig Primary School in Darling, Western Cape, to the local community on 03 November 2016. Famous as the home of author, actor and activist Pieter Dirk-Uys, better known for his character *Tannie Evita Bezuidenhout*, this small town came to life as parents and community members arrived to bear witness to the hand-over of the R66 million state-of-the-art new *darling* of Darling.

Boasting a Grade R centre, a science laboratory, a computer lab, a resource centre, as well as a multipurpose hall and a nutrition centre the school is well-equipped to cater for the 1,535 learners that occupies its 31 classrooms.

The Accelerated School Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (ASIDI) programme continues to deliver a dividend of democracy to communities across rural South Africa and in urban under-privileged areas. With more than 170 schools handed-over to date, the ASIDI programme has changed the landscape of rural education, ensuring that the gap between urban and rural education is closed. In addition to school infrastructure, the programme has also provided a total of 615 schools with water, 425 schools have received decent sanitation and a further 307 schools have been connected to the electricity grid for the first time.





# ASIDI delivers yet another school in the Western Cape



Deputy Minister of Basic Education, Mr Enver Surty, officially handed over Silverstream Primary School to the community of Manenberg in the Western Cape Province on 09 November 2016.

Built at a cost of R60 million, Silverstream Primary School is one of 171 schools that have been handed-over nationally as part of the ASIDI programme since 2011. The school has an enrolment of 968 learners and is equipped with a computer laboratory, 28 classrooms, a Grade R centre, a science laboratory, a resource centre, as well as a multipurpose hall and a nutrition centre where the school serves learners with National School Nutrition Programme-aligned meals on a daily basis.

Deputy Minister Surty highlighted that there has been a huge improvement in the delivery of school infrastructure across the country owing to the ASIDI programme. In addition to the provision of school infrastructure, the initiative has also provided water to 615 schools, sanitation to 425 schools and electricity to 307 schools.

In her welcoming remarks, the Silverstream Primary School principal, Mrs Verna Ward, acknowledged the efforts made by the Department in restoring the dignity of education in an area beset with social problems such as drugs, gangsterism and violence. She further highlighted that the new school will be instrumental in inspiring learners to work towards their desired careers. The principal called upon parents and community members to work with the teachers in ensuring that the school becomes a centre of excellence.



## UNESCO International Bureau of Education supports the ECD Sector



The DBE hosted two officials of the International Bureau of Education (IBE) on a mission to South Africa from 07 to 11 November 2016. The IBE is a UNESCO subsidiary body based in Geneva, Switzerland. The IBE continuously promotes and supports policy and technical dialogue on a renewed understanding of curriculum. It sets the standards and guidelines for what must be regarded as quality curricula.

The purpose of Messrs Tekaligne Godana and Christian Morabito's IBE mission to the DBE, is to assist the ECD sector with the finalisation of an ECD sub-sector plan, based on the *National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy*; and the conceptualisation on the introduction of an additional year before Grade R, reception year.

The mission's focus areas for the engagement include materials development, practitioner training, development of lesson plans for a range of contexts, as well as the monitoring and evaluation of implementation of the programme.



# Provincial Audit Monitoring and Support Directorate to improve audit outcomes within the provinces

## Provincial Audit Monitoring and Support (Sector Audit Outcomes)

**A**ccountability  
**U**nderstanding  
**D**iversity  
**I**nnovation  
**T**ransformation



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As International Fraud Awareness Week is being commemorated from 13 to 19 November 2016, special attention must be placed on compliance with laws and regulations to report accurately and faithfully on performance. Although there was a reduction in findings within the provinces, some provinces have regressed during the current financial year. The DBE has heeded the call to strengthen provincial auditing and to improve audit outcomes through the establishment of the Provincial Audit Monitoring and Support Directorate.

The unit is responsible for monitoring the audit outcomes of all Provincial Educational Departments from a national perspective. One of the DBE's core functions is to promote quality and efficiency in the South African schooling system. The new directorate will therefore play a key role in driving performance and good governance to inspire value and confidence within the schooling system and is currently planning to embark on an initiative to engage the provinces to unite and re-align them to a shared purpose and vision. The project will entail the development of standard operating procedures that will be clearly defined to lead the provinces onto the path of good governance and improved audit outcomes. The main aim is to take a pro-active approach in respect of monitoring to ensure that findings are detected early and acted upon timeously to address any challenges.

A clean audit describes that the financial statements of a department are free from material misstatements and there are no material findings on reporting on performance objectives or non-compliance with legislation. An unqualified audit opinion contains no material misstatements on the financial statements. Findings are however raised on predetermined objectives or non-compliance with legislation or both.

Ms Devoshum Moodley-Veera, Director for the Provincial Audit Monitoring and Support Directorate, says that the acronym AUDIT implies that, “**A**ccountability is achieved by facilitating improved **U**nderstanding through **D**iverse engagements and promoting **I**nnovation, which leads to **T**ransformation into producing efficiency and improved audit outcomes. The DBE will take the lead by setting the audit paradigm. My audit tips have been my way of upholding my belief in “Knowledge is power”, and I intend to continue this practice in my new position”.

# Provincial Round-up

## Western Cape



The Western Cape Education Department has stepped in to assist learners in schools classified as Quintile 4 and 5 schools (schools that charge school fees), which are considered to be “wealthy” schools, towards paying school fees. MEC Debbie Schäfer said even though these schools are fee-paying, the reality is that they are attended by a large number of poor learners. To mitigate the effects of the quintile system, the WCED has this year made over R47.5 million available to assist Quintile 4 and 5 schools who are struggling to collect school fees from poorer learners.

“Every year the WCED and our fee-paying schools receive thousands of applications for fee exemption from school fees. There are currently 569 public ordinary fee-paying schools in the Western Cape. This year the WCED has paid out fee compensation to 551 of these schools. This means that the WCED is assisting 97.01% of our fee-paying schools, said MEC Schäfer.





# Upcoming Events

- 03 November – 03 December 2016: Disability Rights Awareness Month
- 17 November 2016: The Eastern Cape provincial NTA ceremony will be taking place
- 18 November 2016: The SANZAF Education Empowerment and Development (SEED) Youth and Community Development Pledge Dinner at Ghouzia Manzil, Rylands in the Western Cape Province
- 18 November 2016: The Free State provincial NTA ceremony will be taking place
- 19 November 2016: Second Chance Matric Support Programme Marketing Activation in Limpopo Province
- 22 November 2016: The Northern Cape provincial NTA ceremony will be taking place
- 23 November 2016: The adjudication of the Prof Kader Asmal Excellence Award category of the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual NTA will be taking place at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 23 November 2016: The Launch of the Academia Library and Resource Centre at Al-khlaas Academia, Lansdowne, in the Western Cape Province
- 25 November – 10 December 2016: Commemoration of the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children Campaign
- 25 November 2016: A Breakfast Dialogue on the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children Campaign will be taking place at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 25 November 2016: Launch of a partnership with UNISA, and funded by the Department of Higher Education and Training, for the roll-out and support for 45 Teacher Training Centres at the Benoni Teacher Training Centre in the Gauteng Province
- 25 November 2016: Second Chance Matric Support Programme Marketing Activation in Rustenburg and Mogwase, North West Province
- 26 November 2016: Second Chance Matric Support Programme Marketing Activation in Johannesburg, Gauteng Province
- 29 November 2016: Minister Motshekga to release the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMMS) 2015 results at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 30 November to 02 December 2016: Training for the national Primary School Improvement Programme (PSRIP) for Subject Advisors to take place at St George's Hotel and Conference Centre in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 02 December 2016: Commemoration of World AIDS Day at the Albert Moroka High School, Thaba Nchu in the Free State Province
- 03 December 2016: Second Chance Matric Support Programme Marketing Activation in Bushbuckridge and Hazyview, Mpumalanga Province
- 05 – 06 December 2016: A Models for Professional Teacher Development and PLCs Colloquium will be taking place at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 09 December 2016: Second Chance Matric Support Programme Marketing Activation in Kuilsrivier, Western Cape Province
- 10 – 16 December 2016: The South African Schools National Championships (Summer Games) will be taking place at Wits University in Johannesburg, Gauteng Province
- 04 January 2017: Ministerial Announcement of the 2016 NSC Examinations Results
- 05 January 2017: Release of the 2016 NSC Examinations Results
- 11 January 2017: Opening of Schools for the 2017 Academic Year
- 15 January to 22 January 2017: The National Adjudication of the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual NTA will be taking place in the Gauteng Province
- 19 January 2017: Closing day for applications for 2016 NSC Examination paper/s re-mark/re-check.
- 19 January 2017: Closing day for applications for NSC Supplementary Examinations



# 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.