



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



NEWSLETTER

The 2016 ABC Motsepe Schools Eisteddfod held at Rhema Ministries



Rhema Ministries in Randburg was filled with the melodious sounds of choral music performed by learners from across all nine provinces as they competed in the 2016 ABC Motsepe Schools Eisteddfod national championships. Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, accompanied by the Motsepe Foundation CEO, Dr Precious Motsepe, formally opened the Eisteddfod that took place from 28 June 2016 to 01 July 2016.

The ABC Motsepe Schools Eisteddfod is one of the school enrichment programmes that enhance the quality of learning and teaching in schools. Not only will the competition help learners to discover and develop their musical talents, but the competition will also instil discipline and equip them with time management skills. Learners are also being encouraged to embrace a team working spirit and determination in whatever project they undertake in order to be fully prepared for the future. The Eisteddfod is also a vehicle for addressing issues of social cohesion and cultural tolerance, whilst keeping learners occupied and away from drugs and substance abuse during the school holiday period. The competition is made possible through a partnership by the DBE, the Motsepe Foundation and the Department of Arts and Culture.

EduWeek - Advancing educational knowledge in Africa

Minister Angie Motshekga delivered a keynote address during EduWeek 2016, which took place from 29 to 30 June 2016 at Gallagher Convention Centre in Midrand. The event included a two-day exhibition displaying the following themes: Early Childhood Development; Basic Education; Higher Education; Inclusive Education; and E-Tech (Educational Technology). EduWeek, in partnership with SABC Education and powered by Intel, celebrated 10 years of advancing educational knowledge in Africa. In her address, Minister Motshekga said that the Department has gone a long way in transforming the lives of South African citizens through education. However, the Minister highlighted that the progress made in education is still too slow. Minister Motshekga urged the various education partners to work with Government in improving quality and efficiency within the schooling system. The Minister further stated that radical transformation should be focused on the strengthening of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to foster learning and development in the education sector.

The decade celebrations are marked with the announcement of a new five year partnership with the DBE. The partnership was brought about through a shared vision for all South Africans and Africans to have access to lifelong learning, as well as education and training. EduWeek also offers the perfect platform for evaluating and viewing new solutions for education whilst providing delegates an opportunity to attend free training sessions. It enables participants to be at the forefront of Africa's transformation by networking with leaders, strategic thinkers and entrepreneurs from across the globe.

Another highlight was the EduWeek Awards, which took place on the evening of 29 June 2016. The EduWeek Awards recognise excellence across the African education ecosystem. From the inception of the most innovative and life-changing products and/or services to our local heroes who go above and beyond to assist their communities and the lives of our learners. EduWeek is sponsored by various organisations including SABC Education, Intel SA, Pearson, Microsoft, Acer, Dell, HP, Lenovo and Samsung, amongst others.



DBE to introduce new *Managing and Leading Education with Digital Technologies* Short Learning Programme

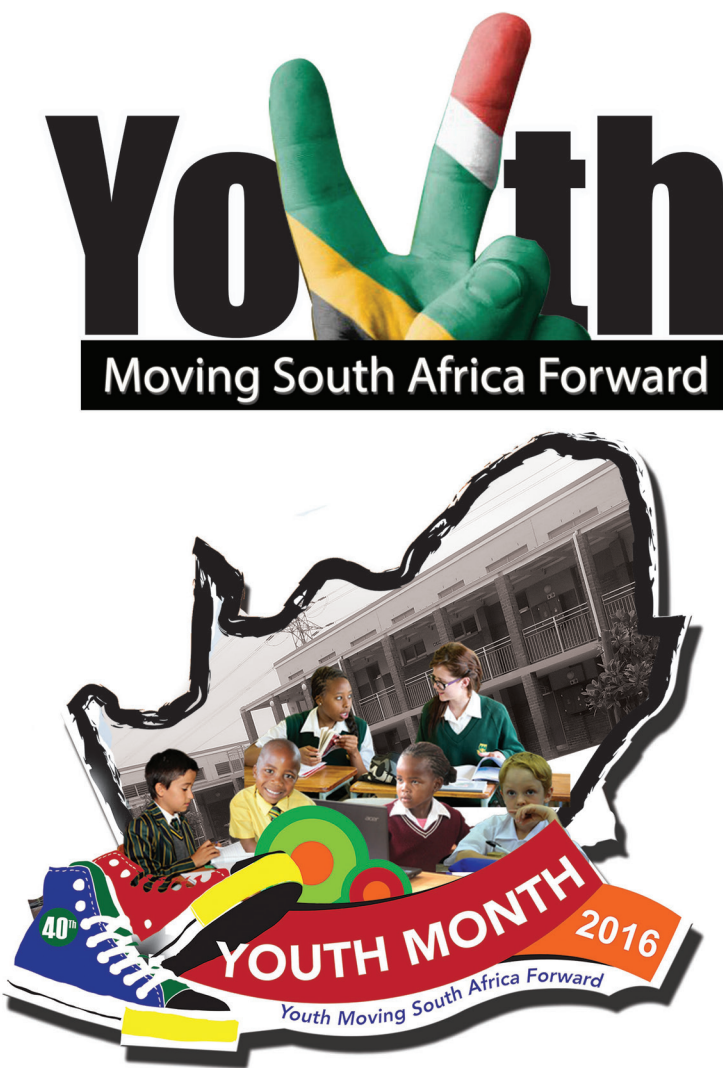
The Department of Basic Education, in partnership with Vodacom Foundation, Microsoft, UNICEF and through the University of Johannesburg (UJ), will be launching a blended university-accredited Short Learning Programme (SLP) on *Managing and Leading Education with Digital Technologies* for selected education officials on 11 July 2016.

The selected officials will attend face-to-face lectures at the UJ Auckland Park Campus until 14 July 2016; after which they will continue with the virtual lecture part of the course until 30 November 2016. This SLP is targeted at 115 Education Managers of District Teacher Development Centres (DTDCs) and Provincial Teacher Development Institutes (PDTIs), which are collectively called Teacher Centres, as well as 50 e-Learning Specialist Trainers who represent all Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) on the DBE's National Core ICT Training Team (NCITT).

The DBE, through its partnership with Vodacom, Microsoft and UNICEF, has been growing the competencies of the managers of the DTDCs systematically over the past two years in order to take the proficiencies and competences of DTDC Managers and e-Learning Specialists to the next level. The purpose of the SLP is to enable education officials who are in the DBE and PEDs to effectively harness the potential of digital technologies in support of their management and leadership roles. The SLP will encourage critical reflection and development with reference to current thinking, practice, theories and methodologies related to the integration of digital technologies and innovation in education. It will encourage self-awareness and self-management in order to lead and manage education change and transformation. South Africa is in urgent need of practitioners who are skilled in leading and managing change and complexity that accompany education transformation. Digital technologies have the potential to amplify and support the leadership and management roles of education practitioners at personal, professional and institutional levels.



Youth Month update: Exploring ways to empower the youth to become progressive entrepreneurs



Basic Education Deputy Minister, Mr Enver Surty, delivered the keynote address at the City of Tshwane Youth Leadership Talks held at the National Library of South Africa (NLSA) in Pretoria on 25 June 2016, as part of the National Youth Month celebrations. Through this forum, Mr Surty engaged with learners from schools located within the City of Tshwane and exchanged views on the importance of improving youth leadership in education, whilst exploring ways to groom themselves to become successful entrepreneurs.

In his address, Mr Surty acknowledged the continued support and leadership shown by the Learners Representative Councils (LRCs) and the Congress of South African Students (COSAS) in transforming schools into centres of excellence. Notwithstanding the support, the Deputy Minister stated that learners still need to be empowered to become more accountable and responsible for their decisions, actions and future endeavours. The Deputy Minister reminded learners that a critical aspect of quality leadership is the consideration of others' rights to equality and human dignity. Mr Surty emphasised that it is crucial for learners to understand the importance of *The Bill of Rights* to build a non-sexist and non-racial society. He further highlighted that the youth need to recognise and acknowledge the efforts and commitment of those young men and women who sacrificed their lives for the liberation of South Africa. "If we forget our past we are doing ourselves injustice. Today's youth therefore have to fight for equality to improve the lives of those who are less privileged," remarked Mr Surty. The Deputy Minister encouraged learners to concentrate on their school work in order to pave their way to greener pastures. "You have the ability to change the future of this country, but you will need to study very hard to make your dreams come true," the Deputy Minister said.

During an interactive session with the Deputy Minister, learners suggested that the Department should accelerate the implementation of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) to catch up with the demand of the digital world. The improvement of early grade teaching, teacher development and school safety were also discussed during the summit. In response to queries and comments from the youth, the Deputy Minister said that the Department has done tremendous work in improving quality learning and teaching in schools. More than 10 million learners are being fed a balanced daily meal in school every day through the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP). The Department is also making inroads in strengthening Early Childhood Development (ECD) in the country. To date 92% of children in the schooling system has received one year of pre-school education; however, literacy and numeracy still need more attention. The Department has developed workbooks to improve learner performance in class; with more than 55 million workbooks delivered to public schools annually. Thus, the workbooks project yields positive results in improving early grade teaching.

Issues of inequality, drug abuse and teenage pregnancy were discussed through a panel of renowned experts in the area of youth development. Deputy Minister Surty; Mr Khulekaleni Skosana, Secretary-General of COSAS; Mr Mandla Mona, the Director for the NLSA's Centre for the Book; and Ms Kefilwe Morobane, the CEO of Giving Wings, were all panel members. Ms Naledi Moleo from SA FM was the panel facilitator. In conclusion, Mr Surty thanked the Agape Youth Movement, the City of Tshwane and the NLSA for hosting the summit.



ICT update on Learner and Teacher Resources – DBE interactive workbooks

The DBE remains committed to improving the literacy and numeracy skills of learners. To achieve this, the Department has produced a series of workbooks to assist learners in Grades R to 9. Selected workbooks have also been converted into interactive workbooks in order to increase the engagement of the literacy and numeracy activities, as well as impart ICT skills. The interactive workbooks have the ability to respond to learners' inputs, allowing a two-way flow of information between the computer and the learner, including instant assessment feedback. The development of interactive workbooks was sponsored by the MTN Foundation and can be downloaded from the DBE website at:

[http://www.education.gov.za/Curriculum/LearningandTeachingSupportMaterials\(LTSM\)/Workbooks/InteractiveWorkbooks.aspx](http://www.education.gov.za/Curriculum/LearningandTeachingSupportMaterials(LTSM)/Workbooks/InteractiveWorkbooks.aspx)

The rainbow workbooks form part of the DBE's range of interventions aimed at improving the performance of South African learners in the first six grades. This has enabled the Department to make these workbooks available in all the official languages and at no cost to learners. Teachers will find these workbooks useful in their everyday teaching and in ensuring that their learners cover the curriculum. Care has been taken to guide the teacher through each of the activities by the inclusion of icons that indicate what it is that the learner should do. Each workbook is made up of 128 easy-to-follow worksheets for listening, reading and writing skills. The workbooks are organised into four worksheets per week, divided over eight weeks per term. All workbooks comply with the Curriculum Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS). For each year learners in Grade 1 to 9 will receive two workbooks for each subject: Workbook 1, to use from January to June; and Workbook 2, for use from July to December. Grade R learners will receive four books per year, one for each term. Workbooks are a simple way of structuring learning activities for learners.



2016AIDS Conference addresses HIV prevention among young women and girls



AIDS 2016
21ST INTERNATIONAL
AIDS CONFERENCE
DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA JULY 18–22, 2016
WWW.AIDS2016.ORG

South Africa is ready to host the 21st International AIDS Conference, commonly known as AIDS2016, which will be held from 18 to 22 July 2016 at the Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, under the theme Access Equity Rights – Now. AIDS2016 will be hosted by the International AIDS Society, which is the world’s leading independent association of professionals involved in the fight against HIV, with 16,000 members in 170 countries. The International AIDS Conference is the largest conference on any global health or development issue in the world. AIDS2016 will officially open on Nelson Mandela International Day on 18 July 2016.

The National Campaign for Young Women and Girls, which is being rolled out over the next three years in five districts (Ekurhuleni and City of Johannesburg in Gauteng Province and eThekweni, Umgungundlovu and Umkhanyakude in KwaZulu-Natal Province), aims to reduce new HIV infections among young girls by 30%. The campaign was launched by the Deputy President on 24 June 2016 in the Umgungundlovu District, KwaZulu-Natal Province. Young women and girls between the ages of 15 to 24 years remain disproportionately affected by the HIV epidemic. They account for one quarter of all new HIV infections in South Africa and urgent action is needed to scale up HIV prevention and sexual and reproductive health services, especially family planning. The National Campaign for Girls and Young Women seeks to reduce the interlinked problems of HIV, school drop-out, teenage pregnancy and gender-based violence. The aim is to maximise health, education and economic opportunities for adolescent girls and young women. The campaign will initially focus on sub-districts with the highest incidence of HIV and will increase access to sexual and reproductive health information and services through adolescent and youth-friendly clinics, the Integrated School Health Programme, community and peer outreach and support, as well as parenting programmes for parents of teenagers and young parents.

This campaign, which will leverage off the Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored and Safe women (DREAMS) project, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Girl Effect, Johnson and Johnson, Gilead Sciences and ViiV Healthcare (PEPFAR). The National Campaign for Young Women and Girls will also be discussed during a satellite session organised by the Department of Health and the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC) during the 2016AIDS Conference. Girls and young women are heterogeneous and, as such, the sessions will include discussions on girls in schools, universities, tertiary institutions and those in the workplace. This satellite session will enhance current efforts to address HIV prevention and dual protection, including contraception for prevention of pregnancy and the use of condoms for prevention of HIV, among girls and young women.

UNESCO holds its Third Interregional Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO in Shanghai, China



The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) held its *Third Interregional Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO* in Shanghai, China from 13 to 15 June 2016. The meeting was jointly organised by UNESCO and the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO, and was attended by more than 130 delegates from 116 National Commissions from all the five UNESCO regions in the world.

The three day meeting provided a rare opportunity for the National Commissions to renew their shared commitment and offered a unique platform for reflection and action. The aim of the meeting is to build capacity and enhance networking for Secretary-Generals, and thereby promote best practices for National Commissions. Discussions were focused on strengthening co-operation between UNESCO field offices and National Commissions; raising UNESCO's visibility at country level; improving understanding of UNESCO's wider value for Member States; and ways for UNESCO to support the activities of National Commissions. The last day of the meeting was devoted to the regional consultations on the UNESCO 2018-2021 Draft Programme and Budget.

National Commissions for UNESCO are national entities established by Member State governments in accordance with UNESCO's Constitution (Article VII) and the *Charter of National Commissions for UNESCO*. They serve as important bodies for liaison, advice, information and programme implementation. Through their direct links to government and close contacts with academia and civil society networks, National Commissions contribute to the achievement of UNESCO's objectives regarding programme delivery, partnerships with civil society and visibility at national, sub-regional and regional levels. They are considered to be constituent elements of the Organisation.

Early grade literacy takes centre stage during the DBE Assessment Dialogue

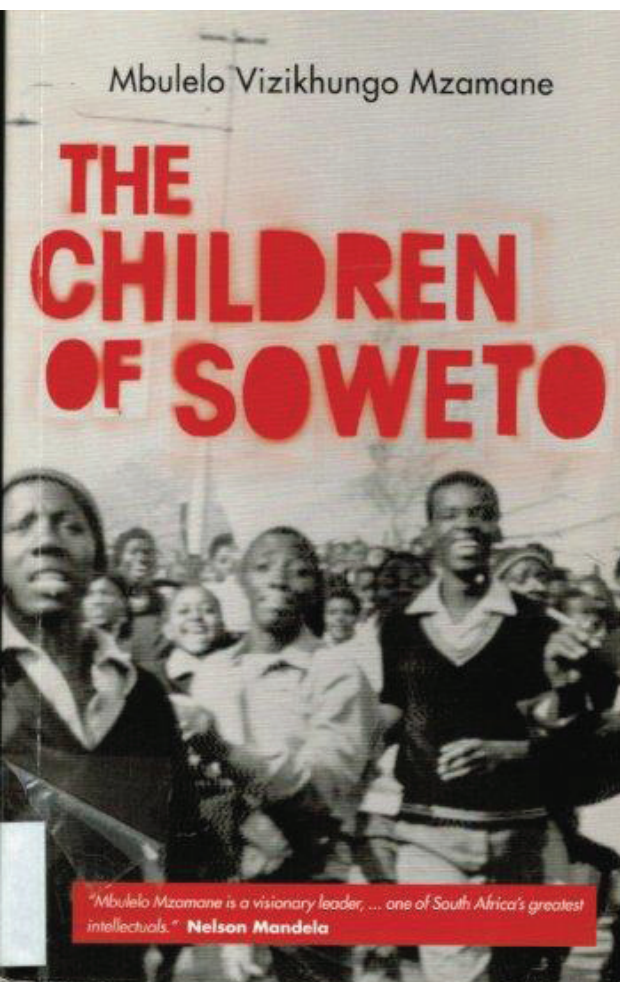
The Basic Education National Assessment and Public Examinations Chief Directorate conducted the third Assessment Dialogue at the DBE in Pretoria on 24 June 2016. This Assessment Dialogue, which was chaired by Mr Mark Chetty from National Assessment and Public Examinations, focused on a number of points including: quality verses quantity: the assessment debate; alignment between curriculum, instruction and assessment; effective teaching and learning through assessments; the art of reporting on learner performance; and standardised testing: the controversy. These sessions have become one of the most critical methods of engagements amongst education stakeholders from the DBE and the private sector, whose mission is to make a significant contribution in improving quality and efficiency within the schooling system, particularly in the area of academic research. The dialogues are targeted at researchers who have done a number of studies in education, and are then invited to present their findings.

Dr Stephen Taylor, from the Office of the Director-General, rendered his presentation on *Using learning assessments for impact evaluation: The Case of Early Grade Literacy*. According to Dr Taylor, although progress has been made in the area of literacy and numeracy in education, Government still needs to do more in addressing Early Grade Literacy in the country. Dr Taylor commended the Department for having initiated these dialogues and added that, "through platforms such as these, the Department will be able to draw on ideas that will improve the education system for the better." Dr Taylor advised the DBE to focus more on impact evaluation in order to breach learning gaps encountered in the education system. "Impact evaluation is when you try to measure the impact of a programme or policy on the intended outcomes in education. In the schooling environment, we are often inconsistent in measuring the impact of school attendance and school completion on test scores," said Taylor. "Therefore, Early Grade Literacy requires serious attention because the majority of South African learners encounter challenges in terms of literacy and numeracy when compared to some neighbouring countries," he concluded.

Dr Rofus Poliah, Chief Director for the unit, mentioned that "Unless we have a formal impact evaluation of programmes, we are more likely to be swayed by public opinion rather than empirical evidence. Through these Assessment Dialogues we intend to build stronger working relations with external education stakeholders, especially researchers, for the sake of improving quality learning and teaching in all our schools". The date for the fourth Assessment Dialogue will be announced shortly.



Information Resource Centre (IRC) Review



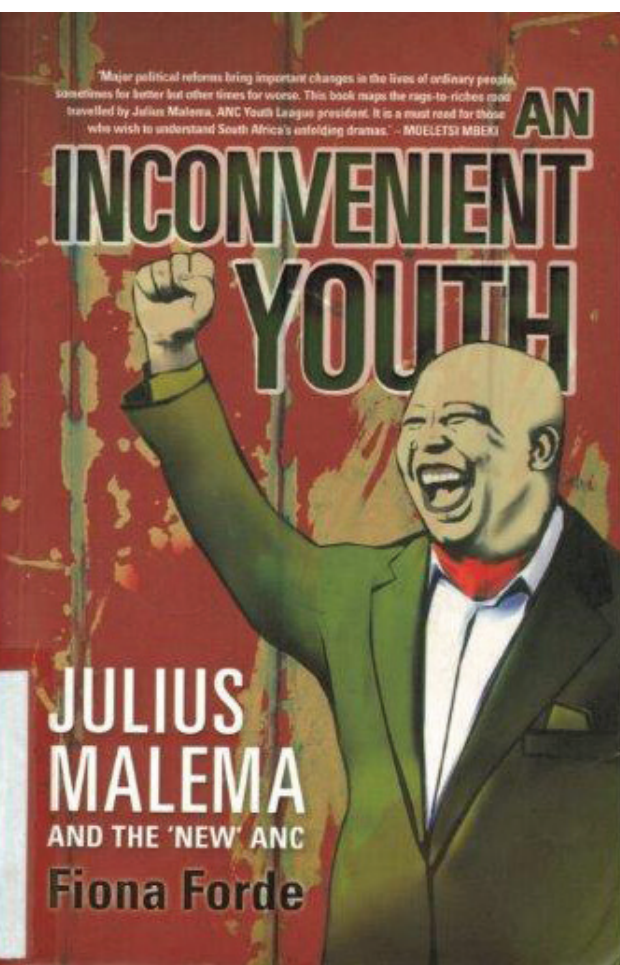
The Children of Soweto

Author: Mzamane, M

Dewey number: MZA

Reviewed by: Nkuna Nobuhle

“We came out demonstrating on a cold, wintry morning. But the authorities wouldn’t have it. They set police dogs on us. They panel-beat us with batons. They sprayed us with teargas. They came out shooting. Army tanks roared down the street like angry hippos. The contest was uneven. We retreated in panic, leaving the ground strewn with casualties from both sides. We couldn’t match them stone to bullet.” *The Children of Soweto* promises a thought-provoking and enthralling read.



An Inconvenient Youth

Author: Forde, F

Dewey number: 322.420968 FOR

Reviewed by: Nkuna Nobuhle

More than a ringleader, a rabble-rouser and a rebel who knows no bounds, Julius Malema is a new kind of cadre in South Africa political life, a radical product of 100 years of struggle politics and one of the first of the post-1994 leaders to emerge. Whether you love him or loathe him, he is undeniably one of the most controversial politicians of our time. *An Inconvenient Youth* traces Malema’s life, from his early, poverty-stricken years in Limpopo to his joining the student structures of the ANC in the early 1990s, and his rapid rise through the party’s ranks to become the president of the ANC Youth League in 2008. Forde analyses the sources of Malema’s wealth, exploring his seamless approach to business and politics. She situates Malema within the ANC’s history and shows in unprecedented detail how he has perfected the practices that characterise a new *struggle* in which individuals extend their personal wealth and political power at the expense of the people.

Play Conference on Early Childhood Development

The DBE, Cotlands and UNICEF, supported by The LEGO Foundation, will be hosting a national conference on the importance of play-based learning in Early Childhood Development (ECD) from 12 to 14 July 2016 in Gauteng. The conference will focus on three main tracks: the importance of play for the young child; play-based learning; and resources in developing a culture of play-based learning.

During the conference, some of the foremost researchers and experts will share their views and insights on the importance and value of play-based learning in early childhood development in South Africa, Africa and the world. The interactive clinics, scheduled for the afternoons, will enhance practical skills and knowledge, enabling science and policy to inform practice.



Regional Round-up

Limpopo



Senior traditional leaders in the Vuwani area expressed their appreciation for the intervention measures by Minister Angie Motshekga and the MEC for Education in Limpopo, Mr Ishmael Kgetjepe, for responding positively and promptly to the request brought to them by the senior leadership collective of the Vuwani area to assist the Grade 12 learners whose lessons were affected by the unrest situation in the area. Community members and parents allowed the learners to be taken to the camps as part of a catch-up programme. The learners at Makhado College in Makhado, Mastec College in Seshego and Tivumbeni College in Tzaneen, are encouraged to make full use of this opportunity to equip themselves academically to be ready for the final examinations.

Upcoming Events

- 28 June – 01 July 2016: ABC Motsepe Schools Eisteddfod
- 29 – 30 June 2016: EduWeek Exhibition in Midrand
- 30 June 2016: The closing date for registration to take part in the Sixth National Moot Court Competition
- 04 July 2016: Launch of the DBE/ABSA training partnership at ABSA Head Office in Johannesburg
- 11 – 14 July 2016: Introduction of DBE, UNICEF, Vodacom and Microsoft *Managing and Leading Education with Digital Technologies* course at the University of Johannesburg
- 18 July 2016: International Nelson Mandela Day
- 18 – 22 July 2016: The AIDS2016 conference will be held at the Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal
- 19 July 2016: Minister Angie Motshekga and Deputy Minister Enver Surty will be hosting the Assessment Roundtable as part of the Oliver Tambo Debate Series at the DBE in Pretoria
- 22 – 24 July 2016: Youth Citizens Action Programme at Roodevallei in Pretoria
- 09 August 2016: National Women's Day
- 25 – 26 August 2016: Minister meets with District Directors at the DBE, Pretoria
- October 2016: Teacher Appreciation Month
- 01 – 02 October 2016: iNkosi Albert Luthuli Oral History Programme and gala dinner
- 03 – 07 October 2016: Heritage Education Schools Outreach Programme in the North West Province
- 05 October 2016: World Teachers' Day