



basic education

Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



NEWSLETTER

## Minister Motshekga visits Siphumelele Secondary School as part of Government Imbizo Focus Week



On 25 February 2017, Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, addressed education stakeholders including learners, teachers, parents and School Governing Body (SGB) members at Siphumelele Secondary School located in the community of Samora Machel, Phillippi Township in Cape Town, as part of Government Imbizo Focus Week. Minister Motshekga interacted with the Grade 12 Class of 2017 to encourage them to focus on their school work in order to attain quality academic results.

The purpose of the Minister's visit to the province was to engage the basic education constituency on the progress being made in the sector in respect of the implementation of the *National Development Plan* (NDP) directives. Through this platform, Government has an opportunity to mobilise communities to strive towards achieving quality education whilst reflecting on the significant progress made in terms of access, redress and equity. The Minister also discussed significant areas of focus for the 2017 academic year: "We now have to dedicate all our efforts to improving quality and efficiency within the schooling system".

Government is working hard at achieving all of the NDP directives set to be achieved by the basic education sector. Approximately 99% of learners are already being given access to basic education in public schools with the majority of these learners being accommodated in *No Fee Schools*; and the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP), feeds more than 12 million learners from all nine provinces with a balanced meal every school day.

Click on the link : <http://www.education.gov.za/ArchivedDocuments/ArchivedArticles/GovernmentImbizoFocusWeek.aspx>

## The DBE, the NECT and Umalusi host Education DialogueSA at Freedom Park



The Department of Basic Education (DBE), represented by Minister Angie Motshekga and Deputy Minister Enver Surty, the National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT) and Umalusi hosted a dialogue to discuss the *currency and the value* of the National Senior Certificate (NSC) at Freedom Park in the Gauteng Province on 27 February 2017.

Chairperson of the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS), Mr Sizwe Nxasana, in his introductory comments, said: “Certainly the standards of the NSC have improved significantly, although there are a number of issues and concerns that the DBE has to look at to ensure that quality education is obtainable by every learner in the country. The expansion of vocational high schools is a very positive development which should see us continuing to drive a lot of change in terms of how we may be producing vocational pathways for learners”.

NECT CEO, Mr Godwin Khosa, gave an update on the work that the NECT has undertaken within the basic education sector: “The NECT took initiatives that have driven improvements across the education sector working immensely with the districts and schools; and conceptualising the inputs involving provincial and national levels. The main objective was to identify initiatives that have potential to change the education system as a whole at national level and to ensure that we move towards achieving the NDP goals”.

Umalusi CEO, Dr Mafu Rakometsi, addressed the standardisation of the NSC, saying that the standardisation process is cumulative: it starts with the appointment of examiners, setting and moderation of question papers, verification of marking and then standardisation meetings which mark the end of the actual standardisation process. Dr Rakometsi also delineated the main objectives of standardisation which are to ensure that a cohort of learners is not advantaged or disadvantaged by extraneous factors other than their knowledge of the subject, abilities and their aptitude to achieve comparability and consistency from one year to the next; and lastly to deliver a constant product to stakeholders such as Higher Education and Training, employers and the society.

Ms Priscilla Ogubanjo from the National Examinations and Assessment Directorate at the DBE, was afforded an opportunity to give an overview of the 2016 NSC results: “The DBE has initiated a way of analysing the NSC results using the *Inclusive Basket of Criteria* which provides a more comprehensive account of the performance at provincial and district levels”. Ms Ogubanjo further added that the approach will re-direct the focus from the overall pass percentage to six other important criteria. The approach will ensure that schools and districts focus on improving their performance in Mathematics, Physical Sciences Bachelor passes, distinctions, Mathematics participation and the dropout rates. In conclusion, Vice Chancellor of the University of Johannesburg, Prof Ihron Rensburg, took the opportunity to acknowledge the efforts made by stakeholders to ensure that the Education DialoguesSA is a success.

## Induction and Orientation Programme for District Managers

The DBE, in partnership with the National School of Government (NSG), launched an Induction and Orientation Programme targeting District and Circuit Managers appointed between 2013 and 2016. It was held at the Southern Sun Hotel, OR Tambo International Airport from 20 to 22 February 2017, and was attended by over 200 District Directors and Circuit Managers from across the nine Provincial Education Departments (PEDs).

District Directors are at the centre of education delivery and the DBE is working to ensure that all districts are led by men and women who have the capabilities and skills necessary to leapfrog the education system forward. The Induction Programme is one of a range of capability building programmes being rolled out for District and Circuit Managers.

In her opening address, Deputy Director-General for the Planning and Delivery Oversight Unit, Mrs Palesa Tyobeka, indicated that although the induction and orientation of newly appointed staff is a provincial competence – the DBE decided to launch this programme after a survey conducted revealed that very few education officials at district or circuit level ever attended induction programmes. She expressed her excitement that so many officials had heeded the call to participate and take time out of their offices to reflect, together with their peers, on their roles both as senior public servants and as leaders in education.

Click on the below link for the full article:

<http://www.education.gov.za/ArchivedDocuments/ArchivedArticles/InductionandOrientationProgrammeforDistrictManagers.aspx>

# Improving schools' accountability and functionality through Integrated Quality Management System oversight visits



The Educator Performance Management and Development and Whole School Evaluation Directorate works closely with schools, districts and communities to encourage them to focus on improving quality learning and teaching in all public schools. On 31 January 2017, the unit undertook an *Integrated Quality Management System (IQMS)* oversight visit to the Western Cape Department of Education's Head Office and Metropolitan East District Office to monitor the Personal Growth Plans (PGPs) of teachers to ensure that they are well trained to deliver school curriculum effectively.

The unit then proceeded to the Ngaka Modiri Molema District, in the North West Province, on 16 and 17 February 2017. The main objective of these oversight visits was to share best practice with office-based educators who are expected to consolidate their teaching techniques in-line with their job descriptions, work plans as well as quarterly performance reviews. These initiatives are guided by the *IQMS (Collective Agreement No. 8 of 2003)*; the *National Policy on Whole School Evaluation (Government Gazette Vol. 433, No. 22512)*; the *Performance Management and Development Scheme (Collective Agreement No. 3 of 2002)* and the *Skills Development Act No. 97 of 1998*.

The Acting Director for the Educator Performance Management and Development and Whole School Evaluation Directorate, Mr Habib Karimulla explained: "The *National Development Plan (NDP) Vision for 2030* emphasises the importance of enhancing accountability in the education sector, and mentions the importance of mutual accountability between schools, districts and communities. In synchronisation with the NDP, the *Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF)* prioritises strengthening accountability and improving management at the school, community and district level as well as partnerships for education reform and improved quality."

Other initiatives undertaken by the unit in the endeavour to meet all set targets, is the Whole School Evaluation (WSE) training programme involving newly appointed supervisors. A five day training workshop was organised by the DBE at the Education Labour Relations Council's (ELRC) building in Centurion from 20 to 24 February 2017. Eighteen (18) newly appointed WSE supervisors from Gauteng and the Eastern Cape attended.

Mr Karimulla further highlighted: "The outcomes set for the training were to: have a sound understanding of WSE Policy; have a thorough knowledge of instruments that are used for data collection; have gained insight on methods of collecting data; have knowledge about the WSE Guidelines; have criteria and expectations; understand the WSE process and procedures; and develop the know how to write a credible WSE report with pockets of excellence, areas for development and recommendations with follow-up interventions. At the end of the training WSE supervisors are expected to evaluate schools and submit a Portfolio of Evidence (PoE). The PoE's are then marked and internally moderated; after which competency certificates are issued to WSE supervisors who meet the required standards."

# Teen suicide should not be kept secret



If someone tells you that he or she wants to take their life, and then tells you not to tell anyone, it is not a betrayal to arrange immediate professional assistance for that person. Suicide is when a person takes his or her own life. Research indicates that suicide accounts for 9.5% of all unnatural teen deaths in South Africa, and it is therefore important for all of us to pay attention to the warning signs. Suicidal thoughts can be brought about when a person experiences adversity or a problem that they might be struggling to deal with, and feel that no one can help them or understand. The individual may or may not have a plan for the execution of the suicidal act.

Some young learners might joke about wanting to commit suicide, but all suicide threats must be taken seriously. Some suicides are well thought out in advance; others are impulsive. This is especially true of people who are unable to cope with depression. Depression is a mood disorder characterised by a severe lack of pleasure or the capacity to experience joy. It is accompanied by sleep and appetite disturbances and feelings of worthlessness, guilt or hopelessness. While not all individuals who are depressed attempt suicide, there is a high correlation between depression and suicide.

## How educators can assist:

- Encourage the learner to be proactive and take control over his/her environment (e.g. initiate contact with other learners, ask for help when needed);
- Teach the entire class about identifying and interpreting emotions; how to handle or react to fear, anger or disappointment; and what to do if they are worried about a classmate or friend;
- Teach social skills through modelling and rehearsal;
- Teach and encourage positive self-talk (e.g. “This work is hard but I have learned difficult things before when I tried hard”); and
- Provide a safe, predictable classroom, with clear rules and routines.

When suicidal thoughts are expressed, parents/caregivers/educators/friends should ask questions about how, when and where they plan to commit suicide, this will assist to elicit the level of risk for suicide, and thus the action to be taken. When asking these questions do not act shocked or judgemental and condemn the actions of the learner. Also, do not leave the child/person alone if you feel the risk to their safety is immediate; if they have expressed an immediate plan, or have access to a gun or other potentially deadly means, obtain immediate assistance.

For professional assistance please contact:

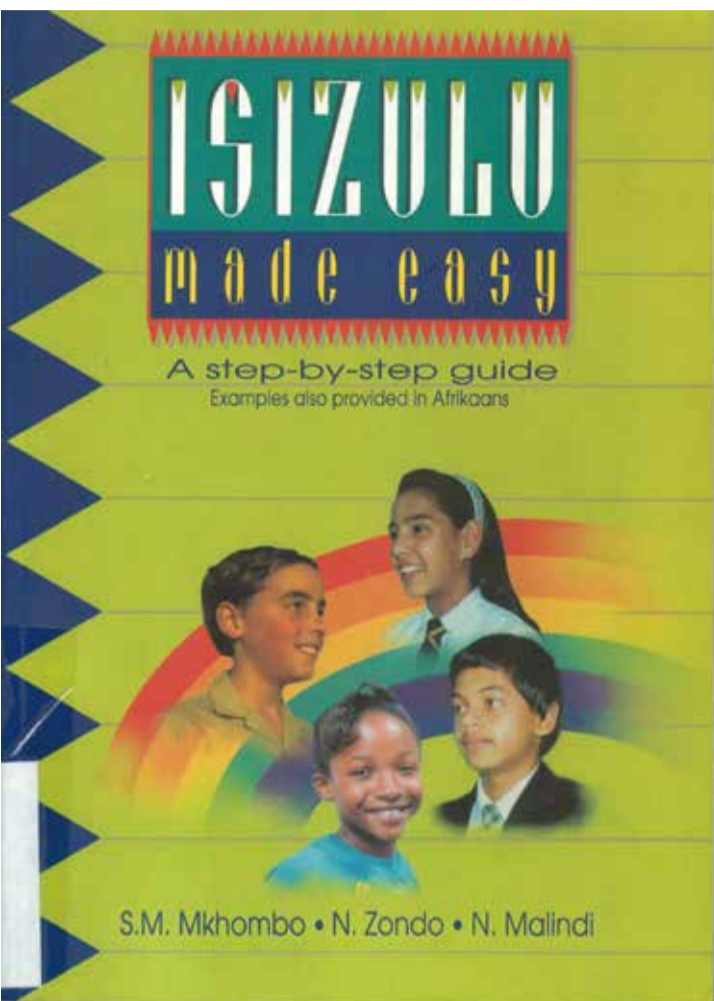
- Your healthcare provider
- Lovelife’s free “please call me” service: 083 323 1023
- South Africa Depression and Anxiety Group (SADAG): 0800 567 567/ 0800 212 223 or SMS 31393
- Childline Hotline: 08000 55 555

For additional tips on how to deal with teen suicide, refer to the below pamphlet:

[http://www.education.gov.za/Portals/0/Documents/Publications/CSTL Identifying and supporting learners at risk of Depression and Suicide Problems.pdf?ver=2015-04-22-094457-523](http://www.education.gov.za/Portals/0/Documents/Publications/CSTL%20Identifying%20and%20supporting%20learners%20at%20risk%20of%20Depression%20and%20Suicide%20Problems.pdf?ver=2015-04-22-094457-523)

During February 2017, the Pan South African Language Board (PanSALB) launched Language Activism Month as part of its Constitutional mandate. The campaign is aimed at encouraging all South Africans to speak and live their languages in order to promote and create a more multilingual society. Parents, teachers and learners are encouraged to speak in their home language to family, friends and colleagues; as well as by reading books in their mother tongue and by encouraging family and friends to do the same. This initiative is also in support of the Read to Lead Campaign that encourages daily reading to ensure that all learners are able to demonstrate age appropriate levels of reading by 2019.

In celebration of the above the Information Resource Centre (IRC) book review for this week focuses on the following books:

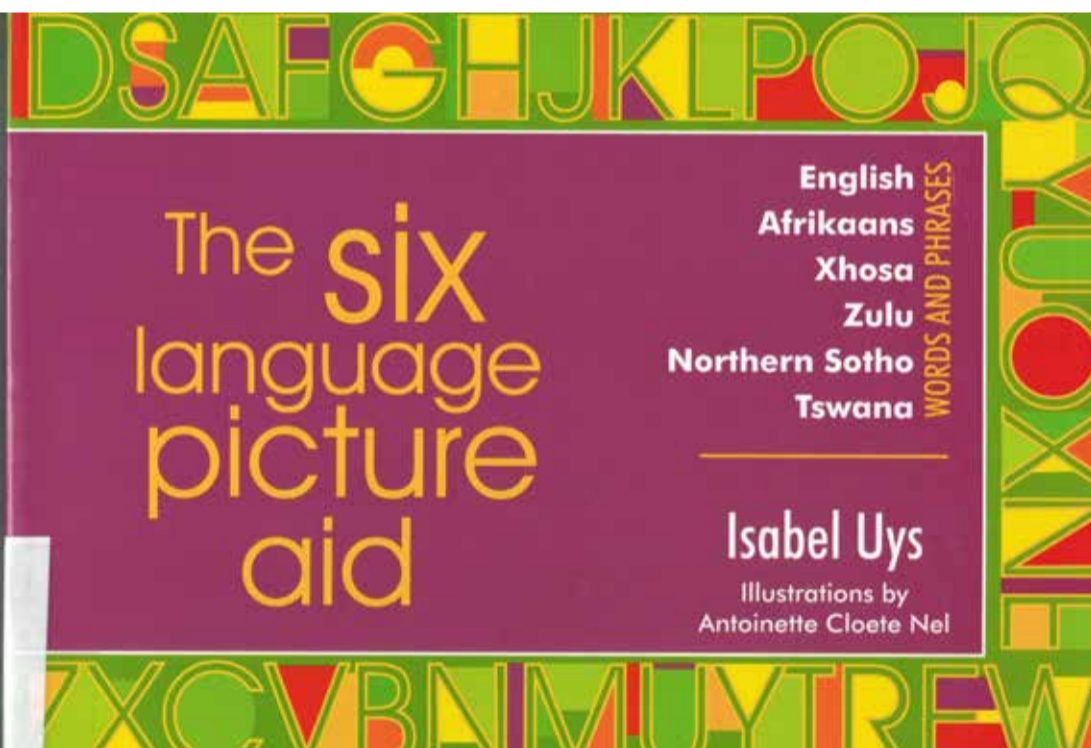


## **IsiZulu Made Easy: a Step-by-Step Guide**

**Author: Mkhombo, S.M**

**Dewey number: 496.3 MKH**

Designed to be a step-by-step guide to isiZulu, this guide is aimed at the layman and student of comparative languages and contains a detailed list of vocabulary and covers aspects of grammar. English and Afrikaans translations are provided throughout. Every chapter begins with an orientation section to help the reader with achieving the outcomes set-out to be achieved. The pictorial vocabulary in the first chapter enables easy reference and visual associations.



## **The Six Language Picture Aid**

**Author: Uys, I**

**Dewey number: 413.1 UYS**

The Six Language Picture Aid provides a visual representation of phrases in six out of the eleven official languages. This is a practical resource which provides words and phrases for children and grown-ups:

Greet a person in his own language - learn a new language. Words and phrases for children and grown-ups:

- Groet 'n person in sy eie taal – leer 'n nuwe taal. Woorde en frases vir kinders en volwassens.
- Bulisa wonke umntu ngolwimi lwakhe – Funda ulwimi olutsha. Amagama neziqwengana zabantwana nabantu abadala.
- Bingelela umuntu ngolimi lwakhe lwebele. Funda ulwimi olutsha. Amagama namabinzana esiZulu alungele abantwana nabantu asebekhulile.
- Dumediša motho ka leleme la gagwe - ithute polelo ye nngwe. Mantšu le dikafoko tša bana le ba bagolo.
- Dumedisa motho ka puo ya gagwe - ithute puo e nngwe. Mafoko le dipolelwana tsa bana le bagolo.

# Hungarian Government Scholarships available for South African Students

The Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) is inviting applications for a Hungarian Government Scholarship, which is open to students who are interested in pursuing full-time studies at Bachelor's, Master's and PhD levels in identified fields of study. Most of the courses are taught in English, while some are available in Hungarian and would require a year of preparatory language training. The scholarship covers tuition fees, accommodation, living expenses and medical insurance.

The South African Government signed an agreement with the Government of Hungary on co-operation in the field of higher education and training. Through this agreement the Hungarian Government is offering 100 scholarships to South African students to study at any participating university in Hungary. Interested candidates are requested to apply online before 05 March 2017.

Click on the below link for additional information, as well as other available scholarships:

[www.internationalscholarships.dhet.gov.za](http://www.internationalscholarships.dhet.gov.za) or contact:

e-mail: [internationalscholarships@dhet.gov.za](mailto:internationalscholarships@dhet.gov.za).

## AAPAM Innovative Management Award honours innovation within the public sector

The African Association for Public Administration and Management (AAPAM) has announced a call for submissions for the AAPAM Innovative Management Award. The AAPAM Innovative Management Award is a continental wide award to honour institutions, organisations and ministries which have made exceptional and longstanding contributions to the public.

The Award recognises innovations that create effectiveness in the performance of organisations in the public sector through the introduction of new ideas and new operational and management methods. The purpose and objectives of the Award include the recognition of innovations in the public sector which are worthy of emulation to enhance the image of the public sector in Africa; as well as the promotion of innovation in the public sector by encouraging and recognising organisations and people for creative and effective ways of solving specific problems of administration and management to facilitate the transfer of innovations and best practices as a way of improving the quality of Public Administration and Management in Africa.

The Awards will be hosted at the 38th AAPAM Roundtable Conference during November 2017. Winners and other leading entries will be extensively publicised, and the executive summaries of all submissions will be posted on the AAPAM Website: [www.aadDam.org](http://www.aadDam.org). Entries should reach [aapam@aadDam.org](mailto:aapam@aadDam.org) by 28th April 2017.

## Upcoming Events

- 21 March 2017: Human Rights Day
- 25 March 2017: 17<sup>th</sup> Annual National Teaching Awards in Gauteng Province
- 07 April 2017: Minister Angie Motshekga to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Education Excellence Awards in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 07 April 2017: Closing date for the submission of the 2017 Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secondary Schools Essay Competition entries to the Provincial Education Departments
- 14 April 2017: Good Friday
- 17 April 2017: Family Day
- 27 April 2017: Freedom Day
- 29 July – 19 August 2017: National Schools Moot Court Competition essays are to be submitted to the University of Pretoria/[www.schoolsmoot.co.za](http://www.schoolsmoot.co.za)
- 19 August – 22 September 2017: The hosting of the provincial rounds of the National Schools Moot Court Competition
- 04 – 08 October 2017: The National Schools Moot Court Competition finals to be hosted at the University of Pretoria and the Constitutional Court in Johannesburg

# 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.

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