



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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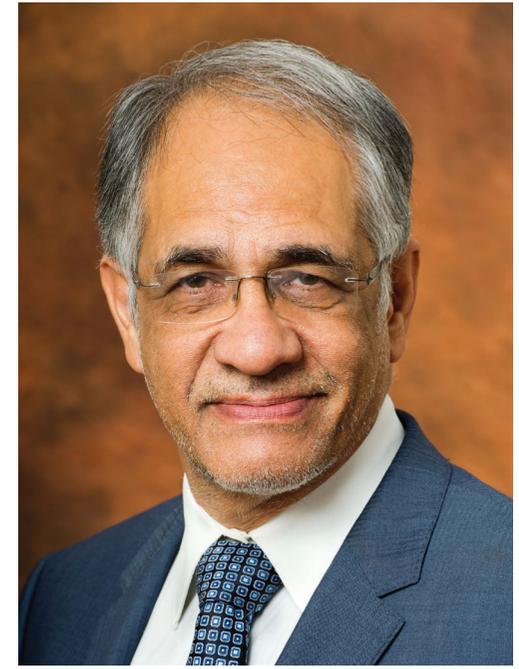


NEWSLETTER

Government provides support to grieving families and school communities of Bronkhorstspuit accident



The Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga, joined by the Deputy Minister of Basic Education, Mr Enver Surty, the Deputy Minister of Sport and Recreation, Mr Gert Oosthuizen, the Gauteng MEC for Education, Mr Panyaza Lesufi and the Mpumalanga MEC for Community Safety, Security and Liaison, Mr Pat Ngomane, visited the learners of the Mahlenga High School and Refano Primary School in Sokhulimi Village on 24 April 2016, to pay tribute to the 18 learners who passed away in a tragic motor vehicle accident. It is reported that the minibus taxi that was transporting the learners collided head-on with a truck and caught fire on the R25 between Verena and Bronkhorstspuit on 21 April 2017. Government has arranged for the necessary professional counselling services to be provided to the Learners and Staff members in both schools.



Both the Mpumalanga and Gauteng Provincial Governments are working together to support the families, learners and staff members through this difficult time. Messrs Lesufi and Ngomane, accompanied by Executive Council Members from both the Mpumalanga and Gauteng Provincial Governments will, on Saturday 29 April 2017, attend the funeral of the driver who was transporting the learners in the tragic crash that occurred on Friday, 21 April 2017, in Wolvenkop near Bronkhorstspuit. The funeral arrangements are as follows: Saturday, 29 April 2017 at 06:00 at Wolvenkop; the cortege will leave at 9:30 for the cemetery.

The Funeral Committee, led by both the Mpumalanga and Gauteng Provincial Governments, are also facilitating the following memorial services:

- Schools Memorial Service: Wednesday, 3 May 2017 at 13:00 at Sokhulumi Village;
- Public Memorial Service: Thursday, 4 May 2017 at 11:00 at Verena Open Ground

More information on the progress of the Funeral Services of the 18 learners and the General Assistance will be made available by the two MECs after the funeral service on Saturday.

Basic Education Minister and Gauteng MEC for Education join hands to strengthen quality learning and teaching in schools



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, together with the Gauteng MEC for Education, Mr Panyaza Lesufi, hosted an Education Imbizo in the Sedibeng West Education District on 21 April 2017. The Imbizo was part of Government's unwavering commitment to fast-track quality service delivery across all spheres of Government through the creation of a platform of engagement amongst Senior Government Officials and Members of the public during National Imbizo Focus Week.

The start of the Education Imbizo day saw the Gauteng MEC for Education, Mr Panyaza Lesufi, accompanied by various education stakeholders, conduct two school oversight visits at Kgokare High and Sehopotso Secondary Schools in Sebokeng, to monitor the status of quality learning and teaching and to interact with the School Management Teams (SMTs) and School Governing Bodies (SGBs). Mr Lesufi was delighted to see learners enjoying classroom activities using the Information Communication Technology (ICT) devices that have been implemented at the schools through the Gauteng Department of Education's E-Learning Programme. He further stated that providing ICT resources to public schools is a step in the right direction as learners in less privileged communities are afforded an opportunity to receive digital education in the country. "We need to accelerate the implementation of ICT in our schools to enable learners to compete in the global village," said Mr Lesufi. The MEC further stated that Government will continue working very hard in ensuring that learners acquire the necessary skills required in the 21st Century. Addressing learners at Kgokare High School, Mr Lesufi highlighted: "This school is one of the top performing schools in the Province, its record of a 100% pass rate deserves better resources". The MEC announced that the Department has put aside approximately R45 million to improve the learning environment for the Kgokare learners.

The afternoon saw the closure of the Education Imbizo day with a stakeholder meeting held at Sedibeng West Education District Offices where Mrs Angie Motshekga, Minister of Basic Education, addressed education stakeholders. During this session, members of the Sebokeng community, School Principals, Teachers, SGBs as well as Learners had an opportunity to make recommendations on various mechanisms that can be utilised in improving quality and efficiency within the schooling system. Some of the critical issues that emerged at the community engagement meeting were: school safety, dropout rates, repetition rates, multi-grade teaching, the promotion of the *Second Chance Matric Support Programme*, the *Funza Lushaka Bursary Programme* and the promotion of reading and the improvement of literacy through the *Read to Lead Campaign*.

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



Soweto community members, parents and teachers urged to promote reading revolution



Soweto community members, including learners and teachers from various schools, gathered at Regina Mundi Church on 23 April 2017, to mark the 22nd World Book and Copyright Day (WBD). The Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Mothsekga, used this international day of commemoration to promote the *Read to Lead Campaign* in the area and to encourage learners to adopt reading as part of their daily routine. A trolley library was also donated to the church to increase access to books for residents.

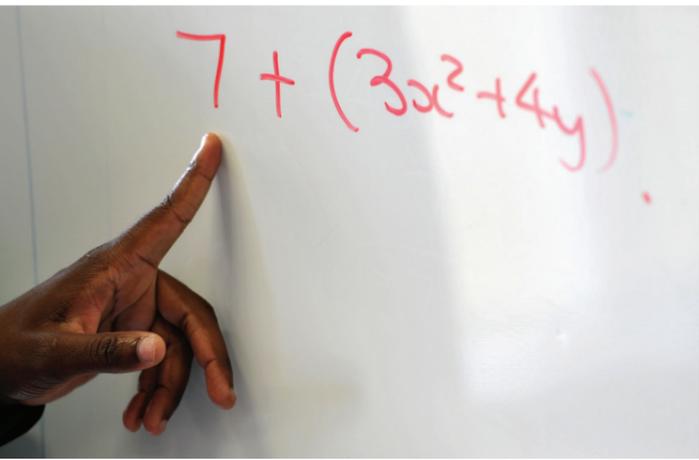
In the South African context, the WBD national celebrations are co-ordinated by the Centre for the Book, an Outreach Unit of the National Library of South Africa, mandated to promote a culture of reading, writing and publishing in all local languages and easy access to books for all. In 1995, the UNESCO proclaimed 23 April as WBD, to raise awareness about the importance of reading; to reach out and give access to books; to educate people to take care for their library facilities and to celebrate books.

The DBE Director for LTSM Policy Development and Innovation, Ms Kulula Manona, thanked the National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT) and the Molteno Institute for Language and Literacy for being part of the celebration. Ms Manona further stated that a reading habit is the most critical phenomenon that can be used to increase learner vocabulary, saying that schools must be at the forefront to drive a reading revolution. Ms Manona pleaded with the private sector and members of the public to donate books to schools for learners to have access to books. "Books contain wisdom and knowledge; it is therefore the responsibility of everyone to nurture a culture of reading in their respective communities," remarked Ms Manona.

In her address, Minister Motshekga mentioned that South Africans should value the importance of reading in their lives. "Adult people should be role models as avid readers to inspire young people to develop a passion for reading," highlighted the Minister. Minister Motshekga stated that a reading culture is a binding constraint within society, adding that "we have to stand up and promote reading in our homes to help our children to read books daily. It is critical that our children read for pleasure and for information to improve their literacy skills." The Minister also pointed out that the Department will work with Provinces to encourage Foundation Phase teachers to spend quality time teaching to improve the level of literacy and numeracy in public schools. "Kids who develop correct skills in their first five years of schooling are likely to achieve excellent results in the Senior Phase. It is true that readers are leaders; hence various research studies have confirmed that children who read are always ahead of their counterparts. Our children are not performing at the level they should merely because they lack a reading culture," explained Minister Motshekga. The Minister urged parents to read to their children and advised those who can't read to ask their children to read books to them. The Minister went on to say that, "schools need to cultivate reading corners and encourage learners to join reading clubs. I therefore call upon all South Africans to become the ambassadors of the *Read to Lead Campaign* to promote a reading revolution in this country," concluded Minister Motshekga.



Mathematics, Science and Technology Conditional Grant registers significant progress in provinces



The DBE Mathematics, Science and Technology (MST) Directorate has observed a significant improvement of the MST Conditional Grant implementation in all provinces since its inception in 2014. The DBE recently hosted a MST Conditional Grant Inter-Provincial Meeting in Pretoria to consolidate strategies aimed at strengthening the performance of MST subjects in public schools. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss matters relating to the grant performance as per the grant framework, reports from provinces and plans for improvement of the grant implementation. Another aspect was to discuss issues of compliance with business plans, the payment schedule, as well as the implementation of Curriculum Assessment Policy Statements (CAPS) for Technical Schools in Grade 11 in 2017, and its status of implementation in Grade 12 in 2018.

The MST Conditional Grant is responsive to the MST targets set out in *Chapter 9* of the *National Development Plan (NDP)* and Goals 1 to 9, 16 and 20 of the *Action Plan 2019: Towards Schooling 2030*. According to the *Vulindlela Report of 14 March 2017*, out of the total budget of R370,917 million, the actual expenditure as at 14 March 2017 for all provinces, was R342, 700 million (88.1%). The DBE also conducted Monitoring and Support Visits to 72 schools in order to ensure that the MST Grant has been effectively implemented. The Director for MST at the DBE, Ms Elspeth Khembo, said: “Although there is significant progress being made in terms of MST Conditional Grant implementation, the DBE still needs to ensure that the project benefits every public school in the country. We will continue to monitor the effective implementation of this grant in schools to channel it towards the achievement of the NDP goals”.

The DBE and Tiger Brands Foundation acknowledge excellence in the implementation of the National School Nutrition Programme



The Department of Basic Education (DBE), in partnership with the Tiger Brands Foundation (TBF), honoured Steenberg's Cove Primary School in St Helena Bay, Western Cape Province and Butterworth Education District in the Eastern Cape Province, for being the best in implementing the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) in the country, during the Annual NSNP Best School and District Awards on 24 April 2017. The purpose of the awards ceremony is to acknowledge and recognise the excellent work done by those hard working Schools and Districts in administering NSNP in line with Education minimum guidelines.

Since its inception in 2010, the NSNP Best School and District Awards has been used to recognise the contribution and role of the DBE's school nutrition programme in improving the quality of learning in schools by providing a daily nutritious meal to over 9,2 million learners. TBF is further supporting the DBE's programme by providing hot cooked nutritious breakfasts in 92 schools across the country that serve the NSNP lunch, which amounts to approximately 63,500 learners every school day. Furthermore the Awards also showcases best practices in the implementation of the NSNP and also advocates for the programme to be supported by school communities.

Steenberg's Cove Primary School and Butterworth Education District received various prizes aimed at further strengthening the effective implementation of the NSNP in their day-to-day activities. These prizes will have a significant impact towards the building of a kitchen at the school and their inclusion in the TBF in-school breakfast programme.

Upcoming Events

- 04 May 2017: Director-General, Mr Mathanzima Mveli, to continue his Provincial Engagement Visits at West Coast Education District Office in the Western Cape Province.
- 05 May 2017: Director-General, Mr Mathanzima Mveli, to continue his Provincial Engagement Visits at Cape Teaching and Leadership Institute (CTLI) in the Western Cape Province.
- 24 May 2017: Minister Motshekga to present the 2016-2017 Budget Vote to Parliament in Cape Town, Western Cape Province
- 25 May 2017: Africa Day
- 27 May 2017: A special Africa Day commemoration will be taking place at Freedom Park in Pretoria in honour of the late Oliver Reginald Tambo
- 29 July – 19 August 2017: National Schools Moot Court Competition essays are to be submitted to the University of Pretoria <http://www.education.gov.za/Programmes/SpellingBee.aspx>
- 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.**