



basic education

Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



## NEWSLETTER



# Minister and Deputy Minister thank dedicated educators on World Teachers' Day



The Department of Basic Education (DBE) joined the whole world in celebrating World Teachers' Day on 05 October 2016. The Minister and Deputy Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga and Mr Enver Surty used the opportunity presented by the commemoration of this special day to thank all those teachers who go above and beyond the call of duty every day to ensure that our children have the best chance of success in the world as well rounded active citizens.

World Teachers' Day 2016 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the adoption of the *1966 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers*. It also marks the first World Teachers' Day to be celebrated within the new *Global Education 2030 Agenda* adopted by the world community a year ago. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) declared 05 October as World Teachers' Day in 1994 during a special intergovernmental conference convened in Paris concerning the Status of Teachers across the world. World Teachers' Day represents a significant effort to raise awareness, understanding and appreciation for the vital contribution that teachers make to education and development across the globe. It also highlights the rights and responsibilities of teachers as well as international standards for their initial training and further education, recruitment, employment, teaching and learning conditions.

It has not been an easy year for many educators across the country, who often work under difficult circumstances but still persevere to provide their learners with the best learning opportunities available. Many teachers have spent countless days and hours during weekdays, weekends and school holidays to assist their learners in achieving their goals and becoming the future leaders of the world.

Teachers are constantly moving beyond their comfort zones as they are confronted with the various ills of our society and often have to deal with situations that go beyond the ambit of their training and job description. These are the unsung heroes and heroines of our country. The teaching profession is often described as the noblest profession on earth, as it is teachers who inspire future leaders, enable innovation, shape minds and impart the knowledge needed to navigate all aspects of life. Teachers have the power to influence young minds and thereby the trajectory of the country. In many instances teachers fill the voids left by parents when it comes to instilling morals and values in the future generation. For this we thank you.

The theme for this year's World Teachers' Day was: *Valuing Teachers, Improving Their Status*. It is with this theme in mind that we call on all learners, parents and community members to do exactly that - show the teachers in your lives and in your communities that you value and appreciate them.

The recognition of the professional status of the teaching profession is vitally important as we seek to attract more young energetic minds into our classrooms as role models, thought leaders and educators. Research has shown that we do not produce enough teachers to meet the growing needs of our nation and thus it becomes imperative that we appreciate those that we do have and to encourage young adults to become our teachers of the future.

Let's work together to improve the status of the teaching profession during Teachers' Month and show our teachers that we value, support and appreciate them.

# Celebrating our teachers during Teachers' Month



In celebration of all South African Teachers and in support of the annual commemoration of World Teachers' Day on 05 October 2016, the Teacher Appreciation and Support Programme (TASP), which is led by the Department of Basic Education (DBE) and the South African Council of Educators (SACE); and is supported by the National Education Collaboration Trust, the Education Labour Relations Council, the EDTP SETA and Teacher Unions, organised a seminar which took place at the Protea Hotel in Pretoria to honour the role played by women in education.

Five female teachers from various provinces were invited to write and submit essays under the theme, *I am a woman: an agent of change*. These female teachers presented and displayed their reflections and their work during the seminar. Speaking on behalf of the Minister, the Deputy Director-General for Curriculum Policy, Support and Monitoring, Dr Mamiki Maboya, said that South Africa has a world renowned *Constitution* to address issues of gender discrimination in communities. Dr Maboya then called upon all South Africans to join hands in fighting gender-based violence in the country, adding that "Girl learners should be empowered through education to aspire towards high profile careers such as Accountants, Medical Practitioners, Artisans and Civil Engineers in order to promote gender equity in the work environment".

Various other activities have also been arranged by the TASP partners to continue honouring teachers throughout the month of October 2016, Teachers' Month. A Fun Run will take place at Fountains Valley in Pretoria on 15 October 2016 and the month will end in celebration when the Minister addresses teachers during a gala event on 28 October 2016 in Centurion.

The aim of the TASP is to support the *Education 2030 Framework for Action* by developing and celebrating South African teachers throughout the year, and not just on the occasion of World Teachers' Day in October each year, as teacher development and support is one of the major focus areas of the Department of Basic Education.





# Zibuza.net social networking platform assists with development and networking of teachers

The DBE, in partnership with the Dr CL Smith Foundation and Standard Bank, were joined by key basic education stakeholders at the Standard Bank Incubator in Rosebank, Johannesburg on 05 October 2016 to launch the *Zibuza.net* online Professional Learning Community (PLC) platform as part of the celebrations for World Teachers' Day.

*Zibuza.net* is designed and built exclusively for South African teachers and serves to promote professional development, teacher support and appreciation. This platform aims to save teachers valuable time and ultimately improve learner performance by providing teachers with access to resources such as lesson plans, classroom activities, tools, courseware and applications to be more productive and efficient. The online community is socially driven by users (teachers) and typical activities include searching, authoring, sharing (uploads and downloads), rating, correlating, monitoring, discussing, aligning, enhancing, mentoring, collaborating and communicating. Through partnerships and sponsorships, teachers are also recognised and rewarded for their participation and contributions to the greater South African teaching community with R50,000 in rewards being paid out to teachers during the pilot phase of the project.



## 2016 iNkosi Albert Luthuli Oral History Programme celebrates heroes and heroines of the liberation struggle



The iNkosi Albert Luthuli Oral History Programme is taking place from 04 October

to 07 October 2016 with learners and educators presenting their projects in parallel sessions from 05 October to 06 October 2016 at Freedom Park in Pretoria. Winners will be announced during a gala dinner ceremony on the evening of 06 October 2016. The theme for 2016 is aligned to Freedom Park's "Honouring our heroes and heroines programme".

The iNkosi Albert Luthuli Oral History Programme is a collaboration between the DBE and South African History Online (SAHO) which was launched in 2005. The aim of the programme is to educate the youth about the injustices of the past and the valuable lessons that can be drawn from these experiences. It also empowers learners to conduct oral history research and creates an opportunity for them to gain knowledge on the values shared within their community and to become catalysts of change within their surroundings. The programme honours the liberation struggle heroes and heroines, whilst also raising awareness about the country's past and contributing to the continuing journey to build a united and non-racial society.



# The Kay Motsepe Schools Cup National Championships kicks off



The Kay Motsepe Schools Cup National Championships for football and netball officially kicked off at Florida Albion Football Club in Roodepoort, Gauteng Province on 04 October 2016. This Championship will see eighteen (18) school football teams and thirty six (36) school netball teams compete for top honours over five days. The Championships will conclude on 08 October 2016, when only four teams will be left to compete for top honours. The national school soccer champions will walk away with R1 million for their school and the top netball teams will undertake a trip to Singapore to compete with the top netball teams participating in a globally represented championship.

Mr Bongani Zondi from the Sport and Enrichment Directorate said, “Not only will this Cup help the Department to identify sporting talents within the schooling system, but it also keeps learners away from social ills such as alcohol and drug abuse during

the school holidays,” The Kay Motsepe Schools Cup National Championships is part of the joint school sport programme partnership that was launched in April 2016 between the Department of Basic Education and the Motsepe Foundation.

## Sporting talent identified during Rural and Farm Schools Sport Tournament

Two thousand learners from the Limpopo, North West, KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga and Free State Provinces participated in the Transnet Rural and Farm Schools Sport Tournament, which was launched at the Germiston Stadium in Gauteng Province on 03 October 2016. The DBE has partnered with the Transnet Foundation in order to improve mass school sport participation in rural and farm schools across the country. Through this initiative, learners between the ages of thirteen and eighteen years are targeted to compete in sporting codes such as athletics, football, chess and netball. The Tournament enables rural youth to participate in sport at a highly competitive level and to receive high-performance training to improve their talent.

“Through the Rural and Farm Schools Sport Programme, the Transnet Foundation provides opportunities to youth who fall outside the target areas of traditional sporting bodies. It aims to identify and develop young sporting talent in rural areas,” says Cynthia Mgijima, Head of Transnet Corporate Social Investment. The Rural and Farm Schools Sport Programme has enabled learners to win sporting scholarships; some have been selected for national sports teams and regional soccer programmes. Approximately 120 boys attend the South African Football Association (SAFA)/Transnet Football School of Excellence, where, they are also given specialised training to develop their talent.

Speaking during the launch, the Deputy Director-General for Educational Enrichment Services, Dr Granville Whittle, highlighted that the involvement of the private sector in school sport, especially in rural and farm schools, will help learners to reach their full potential. Dr Whittle added that, “More work still needs to be done to involve additional rural and farm schools as only 40% of learners in rural and farm schools participate in sport as compared to 72% of learners in urban areas.”





# Sixth National Schools Moot Court Competition explores various sections of the *Bill of Rights*

The DBE, in partnership with the Department of Justice and Correctional Services, the Universities of Pretoria, Venda and the Western Cape, the Foundation for Human Rights and the Law Society of South Africa, will be hosting the Sixth National Schools Moot Court Competition for high schools from 05 to 09 October 2016. All Grade 8 to 11 secondary school learners were invited to enter as teams of two; and to prepare an essay on a fictional Constitutional Court case as both applicants and respondents to the case.

Since its inception in 2011, the National Schools Moot Court Competition has managed to explore various sections of the *Bill of Rights* such as rights, equality, freedom of expression and human dignity. It offers a platform for young people to experiment with the actual application of the country's supreme law. Most importantly, this Moot Court exercise is not only about the law, but the founding values that underpins the country's Constitutional Law. The teams have to use the 2016 hypothetical problem statement to write their essays and compete at the provincial rounds, the semi-finals and the national finals, through the reinforcement by the intricate constitutional matters around freedom of expression. The case study tests the extent to which racism and hate speech find expression within the Constitutional Court as part of a paradigm shift amongst the youth and the entire society for nation building and unity.

The finals, which include a prize giving ceremony, will be taking place at the Constitutional Court in Johannesburg on 09 October 2016.



# Consultative Forum on the formation of English Language Teachers' Association makes headway

A Consultative Forum was hosted, in collaboration with the British Council of South Africa, on 04 October 2016, at the DBE in Pretoria to encourage the formation of English Language Teachers' Associations in all provinces based on the model of the Eastern Cape English Language Teacher Association; as well as to serve as a platform for discussion of the proposed launch of the National Teachers' Association of English Language Teachers of South Africa, which is being planned for early 2017. Dr Mamiki Maboya, Deputy Director-General for Curriculum Policy, Support and Monitoring, provided delegates with a short overview of the purpose of the Forum.

The collaboration between the DBE and the British Council has been ongoing since 2012. Ms Caroline Grant, Head of English in Education for Southern Africa and Nigeria from the British Council, highlighted the benefits of belonging to a Teachers' Association (TA), as well as the benefits of networking and belonging to a professional community to promote the development of teachers; to train and orientate teachers; and to support teachers with subject content as agents of change.

During December 2015, the Hornby Trust, which is linked to the International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language (IATEFL), awarded a grant of R20,000 towards the establishment of the National Language Association of English Teachers in South Africa. One of the key functions of IATEFL is to support the formation of English Teacher Associations globally.

Mr Norman Fumba, the President of the Eastern Cape English Educators' Association (ECEEA) and Professor Monica Hendricks, Head of the Institute of the Study of English in Africa (ISEA) at Rhodes University, presented the Forum with reports on their support for the Eastern Cape English Educators' Association. The collaboration between Rhodes University and the ECEEA is a model that could be replicated in all provinces.

**Click on the below link to read the full article:**

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





# National Nutrition Week encourages learners to “Love your beans - eat dry beans, peas and lentils!”



National Nutrition Week (NNW) will be celebrated from 09 to 15 October 2016 under the theme: “*Love your beans – eat dry beans, peas and lentils!*”; and is aimed at promoting healthy lifestyles in support of Government’s vision of “A long and healthy life for all South Africans”.

This year, the DBE, in partnership with Nestle SA, will officially celebrate NNW at Makgane Primary School, located in Jane Furse in the Sekhukhune District of the Limpopo Province, on 11 October 2016 and at Zanenggele Junior Secondary School, located in Nkondlo Village in the Ngcobo District of the Eastern Cape Province, on 14 October 2016. The objective of NNW 2016 supports the global United Nations theme: “*2016 International Year of Pulses: Nutritious Seeds for a Sustainable Future*”. The

theme aims to reinforce healthy eating and healthy living in school communities to curb instances of undernourishment, overweight and obesity amongst school children.

In supporting NNW 2016, Tetra Pak SA has also formed a partnership with the DBE to conduct nutrition awareness campaigns on 10 October 2016 in 10 selected schools in the Schoornoord Circuit and the Sekhukhune District in the Limpopo Province; and five selected schools in the Ngcobo District in the Eastern Cape Province on 13 October 2016 where learners will participate in *the Young Chef Programme* activities and learn how to prepare healthy lunch boxes, participate in touch netball, touch soccer, basketball, hula hoops, zumba dance and indigenous games.

The DBE has also partnered with the French Institute of South Africa in celebration of this week and in support of the National School Nutrition Programme, which will see the *So Chef! Programme* providing workshops to learners from three selected secondary schools in Durban, Johannesburg and Pretoria during the Life Orientation and Life Skills classroom periods. These workshops will start with an information session for all learners in the selected schools during morning assembly, and then the chefs will provide more in-depth lessons during the Life Orientation and Life Skills classroom periods, which will see learners being provided with a variety of recipes and food preparation techniques for the creation of simple and balanced lunchboxes, which they could also use at home to encourage healthy eating in their families. The workshops have also proven to inspire budding chefs to make career choices in Consumer Studies and Home Economics to further their interest in the culinary sciences.

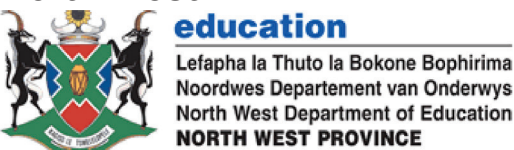
## Provincial Round-up

### Western Cape



The Western Cape Education Department (WCED) has organised holiday study programmes for 159 high schools, with over 10,000 National Senior Certificate (NSC) candidates attending the Grade 12 Spring Schools Programme. The programme aims to assist learners in high enrolment subjects including Mathematics, Physical Science, Geography, Life Sciences, Accounting and Economics. Learners will be taught by educators selected by the WCED. In some schools, curriculum advisors will be supporting and assisting individual school programmes. Additional resource materials have been developed to complement the lessons being presented. On 04 October 2016, MEC Debbie Schäfer visited the spring school programme at the Cape Town College. This programme includes 32 schools from the Metro East Education District and will run from 03 to 07 October 2016. Extra lessons will include Accounting, Economics, History, Geography, Afrikaans, Mathematics, Maths Literacy and Physical Science.

### North West



Director-General of Basic Education, Mr Mathanzima Mweli, visited five spring schools in the North West Province over the past weekend. Bethel High School, Coligny High School, Tau Rapulana High School, Barolong High School and Golfview High School are all implementing successful programmes aimed at assisting Grade 12 learners with extra lessons and revision as a “final push” towards the 2016 NSC examinations. DG Mweli expressed his satisfaction at the number of learners taking advantage of this opportunity to improve their marks.

# Upcoming Events

- October 2016: Teacher Appreciation Month
- 04 – 07 October 2016: iNkosi Albert Luthuli Oral History Programme and Gala Dinner at Freedom Park, Pretoria
- 04 – 08 October 2016: The Sanlam Kay Motsepe Schools Cup National Championship will be taking place in Johannesburg in the Gauteng Province
- 05 – 09 October 2016: Sixth National School Moot Court Competition
- 06 October 2016: Launch of four grants in Teaching and Learning for Early Learning and Inclusive Education at the DBE in Pretoria
- 09 – 15 October 2016: National Nutrition Week
- 11 October 2016: DBE and Nestle SA will celebrate National Nutrition Week at Makgane Primary School in Jane Furse in the Sekhukhune District, Limpopo Province
- 14 October 2016: DBE and Nestle SA will celebrate National Nutrition Week at Zanengqele Junior Secondary School in Nkondlo village in the Ngcobo District, Eastern Cape Province
- 15 October 2016: A Teacher Appreciation Fun Run will be taking place at Fountains Valley in Pretoria
- 18 – 19 October 2016: The Digital Education Show Africa will be taking place at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg
- 25 October 2016: An information session on the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children campaign will be taking place at the DBE in Pretoria
- 26 October to 29 November 2016: 2016 National Senior Certificate Examinations
- 28 October 2016: World Teachers' Month will culminate in a gala event on 28 October 2016 hosted by SACE at their offices in Centurion
- 10 – 16 December 2016: The South African Schools National Championships (Summer Games) will be taking place at Wits University in Johannesburg
- 04 January 2017: Ministerial Announcement of the 2016 National Senior Certificate Examinations Results
- 05 January 2017: Release of the 2016 National Senior Certificate Examinations Results



## 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.

