



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



NEWSLETTER

Basic Education Minister welcomes resumption of schooling in Vuwani



The Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga, welcomed the resumption of schooling in Vuwani on 08 May 2017. This follows President Jacob Zuma's meeting with His Majesty King Toni Mphephu Ramabulana of Vha-Venda and affected community stakeholders where an agreement was reached on the demarcation concerns from the residents. Officials from the Limpopo Department of Education have been monitoring the situation closely in the area to ensure that schooling resumes.

The Vuwani shutdown affected 76 schools involving 27,697 learners with 1,702 of them in Grade 12. An assessment of the days that have been lost to the protest has been conducted and this will inform all the affected parties of what needs to be done to help our learners to catch up lost schooling time.

The Department of Basic Education urges all learners and teachers to focus on learning and teaching. Members of the community are also urged to support departmental interventions to ensure that learners remain in class. "We value the education of our children and we hope that this kind of disruption will not happen again. Our main aim right now is to ensure that our learners catch up with their work through interventions that will be rolled out at all schools," Minister Motshekga said.

The Department of Basic Education, together with the Limpopo Department of Education, will continue to monitor the situation in Vuwani in order to put in place appropriate support measures.

Verena learners laid to rest



Sixteen of the eighteen learners, who were victims of a tragic motor vehicle accident that occurred on the R25 between Verena and Bronkhorstspuit on 21 April 2017, were laid to rest at Verena in Wolvenkop located in the Mpumalanga Province on 06 May 2017. Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, together with the Minister of Transport, Mr Joe Maswanganyi, the Mpumalanga Premier, Mr David Mabuza, the Speaker of the National Assembly, Ms Baleka Mbete, the Gauteng MEC for Education, Mr Panyaza Lesufi, the Mpumalanga MEC for Education, Mrs Reginah Mhaule, the Mpumalanga MEC for Human Settlements, Mr Andries Gamede, the Mpumalanga MEC for Community Safety, Security and Liaison, Mr Pat Ngomane and other senior government officials joined mourners to pay their respects to the deceased and to offer their condolences to the affected families.

South Africans from all nine provinces attended the mass funeral service. Amongst them were family members and relatives, teachers, school friends and various senior government officials. The remaining two learners were buried on Sunday, 07 May 2017 in the Limpopo and KwaZulu-Natal Provinces respectively.

In his address, MEC Lesufi mentioned: “Children from Mpumalanga and Gauteng Provinces will be provided with scholar transport that is sponsored by Government. In paying tribute to the learners, stones will be unveiled at the entrance of the affected schools in 2018 to reflect the names of the victims.”

“Children are our most valuable national asset; losing them in this manner is indeed a great loss to us. Road accident deaths are needless deaths and are mostly caused by human error. As a matter of fact, we know that vehicles that are not roadworthy, unlicensed drivers and the failure of the traffic police to intervene are the main causes of road carnage. According to the Road Traffic Management Corporation, the total number of unroadworthy vehicles in June 2015 was 539,359, and this increased to 554,825 in June 2016. The highest increase was recorded in light duty vehicles, trailers and light motor vehicles. The minibus, which was transporting these pupils, lost control and burst into flames while transporting 27 instead of the legal limit of 22 passengers, at the time of the accident. The death of these learners constitutes one of the greatest tragedies to befall the education fraternity in 2017. We wish a speedy recovery to the three people who remain in a critical, but stable condition in hospital. A total of four people have already been discharged,” remarked Minister Motshekga at the mass funeral service in Verena.

The Minister ensured the mourners that Government will strengthen its policies in ensuring that those who do not obey the rules of the road are brought to book. “We will redouble our efforts in ensuring that tragic accidents of this nature do not become a common occurrence. We must, through deeds, not words, prioritise the safety of our learners and communities. In loving memory of the departed, we must remain steadfast in our resolve to build state-of-the-art schools in the communities where our people live, so that we eliminate the need for the race towards better education elsewhere,” concluded Minister Motshekga.



Physical Education Day celebrated at all public schools



On Physical Education Day, 10 May 2017, more than 25,000 learners were targeted nationally to set a new world record for “the most people star jumping simultaneously at multiple venues for two consecutive minutes”.

“We need to infuse a culture of physical activity in the education sector by ensuring that all learners are afforded the opportunity to participate in curriculum orientated quality physical education lessons and other school based physical activities,” said the National Quality Physical Education Co-ordinator, Mr Norman Mphake. As public schools marked the Physical Education Day celebrations, the National Physical Education Co-ordinating Team joined approximately 500 learners at Eendracht School in Pretoria to set a new world record.

A total of 25,574 learners from across all nine provinces were targeted to participate in this Physical Education activity. Through this initiative, schools and organisations were required to synchronise their time, at exactly 08:00, in order to carry out the challenge and to record themselves accordingly.

The Eendracht School principal, Ms Madiseme Kgasago, said that Physical Education within the schooling environment is critical because it enables learners to lead healthy lifestyles. “Lately, most of our learners are involved with technology and are therefore gradually becoming physically inactive. Schools need to ensure that learners are given a platform to participate in Physical Education, at least twice a week. This will assist us as a nation to fight against obesity amongst school children. We have to value Physical Education in our schools because it enhances learner concentration in class,” said Ms Kgasago.

Mr Mphake added, that “We will continue to strive to ensure that we create a generation of well-rounded learners who must, at all times, be ready, willing and able to contribute to society. Being healthy, active and physically literate should be central to preparing learners for their future. As today marks the end of Physical Education Month in South Africa, we express our gratitude to learners, teachers, education administrators and the broader school community for their continued and valued contribution to our education system”.

The event was made possible by the DBE, the Physical Education Institute of South Africa (PEISA) and Provincial Departments of Education.



Provincial Round-up

Eastern Cape Province



The Eastern Cape Department of Education (ECDOE) will be hosting various government departments, private entities, academic institutions and non-profit organisations at the Southern Sun Hemingways Hotel in East London on 18 May 2017, to look at ways to enhance teaching and learning outcomes using Information and Communication Technology (ICT). The ECDOE is working towards developing an e-Learning educational system to improve matric results, as well as digital access to disadvantaged schools in remote rural areas. This initiative is supported by the DBE, the Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services and SABC Education. The Eastern Cape e-Learning Summit will be held under the theme “*e-Learning an imperative for sustainable quality education*”. The key objectives of the Summit are to contribute to the academic performance of learners using e-Learning tools, while assisting in the growth of the teaching professionals with using e-Learning teaching methods, involving stakeholders in the e-learning environment. Participants will discuss topics such as e-Learning content costs for public schools, digital classrooms, data costs for schools, managing teaching content licenses.

Free State Province



The Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA), the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) and the Goldfields Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) College partnered to establish a Centre for Entrepreneurship in Welkom in the Free State Province. The centre is located at the Goldfields TVET College in Thabong and aims to provide entrepreneurship education and business development services to college graduates. A total of 15 students, who graduated in qualifications related to the renewable energy sector, are currently enrolled at the Centre. The Centre was officially launched on 21 April 2017 to assist in providing radical economic transformation opportunities to those who were not given a previous opportunity to contribute to the economy.

Upcoming Events

- 13 May 2017: Second Chance Matric Support Programme Roadshow in Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape Province
- 15 May 2017: Multi-Media Centre Resources Hand-over to Mpotholo Primary School, KwaZulu-Natal Province
- 17 May 2017: Du Noon Primary School in Cape Town, Western Cape Province will be officially opened by Deputy Minister, Mr Enver Surty, as part of the Accelerated School Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (ASIDI)
- 20 May 2017: Second Chance Matric Support Programme Roadshow in Ladybrand, Free State
- 24 May 2017: Basic Education Budget Vote Debate in Parliament, Cape Town, Western Cape Province
- 24 – 26 May 2017: The provincial rounds of the ABC Motsepe Schools Choral Eisteddfod Championships to take place at Spirit World Ministries, North West Province
- 24 – 27 May 2017: The provincial rounds of the ABC Motsepe Schools Choral Eisteddfod Championships to take place at Mission Vale in Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape Province
- 25 May 2017: Africa Day
- 30 May – 02 June 2017: The provincial rounds of the ABC Motsepe Schools Choral Eisteddfod Championships to take place at Springs Civic Theatre, Gauteng Province
- 31 May – 03 June 2017: The provincial rounds of the ABC Motsepe Schools Choral Eisteddfod Championships to take place at the Durban Playhouse, KwaZulu-Natal Province
- 01 – 04 June 2017: The provincial rounds of the ABC Motsepe Schools Choral Eisteddfod Championships to take place at the Western Cape Sport School, Western Cape Province
- 02 – 04 June 2017: The provincial rounds of the ABC Motsepe Schools Choral Eisteddfod Championships to take place at Bolivia Lodge, Limpopo Province
- 09 – 10 June 2017: The provincial rounds of the ABC Motsepe Schools Choral Eisteddfod Championship to take place in the Northern Cape Province
- 13 – 15 June 2017: The DBE will be participating in the 8th South African AIDS Conference in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal Province
- 04 – 07 July 2017: The ABC Motsepe Schools Choral Eisteddfod National Championships to take place at the Rhema Bible Church, Gauteng Province
- 18 July 2017: A Mandela Day celebration will be taking place in partnership with the Nestlé Healthy Kids Programme in the Gauteng Province
- 29 July – 19 August 2017: National Schools Moot Court Competition essays are to be submitted to the University of Pretoria
- 19 August – 22 September 2017: The hosting of the provincial rounds of the National Schools Moot Court Competition
- 27 September 2017: World School Milk Day will be celebrated in the Western Cape Province
- 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
- 09 – 15 October 2017: A National Nutrition Week Commemoration will be taking place under the theme: *“Rethink your drink – Choose Water”* in the Gauteng and North West Provinces
- 09 - 22 October 2017: A National Nutrition Week *“So Chef”* workshop will be taking place in partnership with the French Embassy in four provinces (Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape and Western Cape) and in five cities (Johannesburg, Pretoria, Durban, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town)

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.

