



basic education

Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



NEWSLETTER

## Deputy Minister Surty encourages school principals to work with communities to promote safety in schools



Deputy Minister of Basic Education, Mr Enver Surty, accompanied by the Director-General of Basic Education, Mr Mathanzima Mveli, undertook a visit to Glendale High School in Mitchells Plain, Cape Town on 25 May 2017, to meet with school principals. The visit was aimed at informing Mitchells Plain education stakeholders about plans and strategies to be implemented by the Department of Basic Education in improving quality education during the 2017 academic year.

In his address, Mr Surty said that the DBE has decided to invest more energy and resources into the implementation of the *Second Chance Matric Support Programme*, the promotion of school safety, as well as the expansion of Information Communication Technology (ICT) in rural schools. Deputy Minister Surty told the school principals that school leadership is one of the fundamental elements that need to be elevated in all South African schools in order to improve quality education and added that: "School principals should consider working closer with parents and the South African Police Services (SAPS) in order to create an environment that is conducive to learning". The Deputy Minister indicated that the DBE and the SAPS are collaborating to prevent crime in communities where schools operate. Mr Surty further highlighted that the DBE has prioritised the expansion of ICT in the rural areas of South Africa in order to groom learners in the field of technology, which will in turn assist them to compete in the global village.

The Director for the *Second Chance Matric Support Programme*, Ms Zarene Govender, informed the attendees that the programme is now fully established and advised school principals to encourage those learners who have failed matric; or who are writing modularised examinations in order to obtain their National Senior Certificate (NSC); or who want to improve their performance in subjects that they previously wrote NSC examinations in, to enrol with the programme. "We need to encourage young people to use this opportunity to improve their academic status." The Department has already made resources available to support learners. Through this programme learners receive support in various methods including face-to-face classes, multimedia broadcasting solutions, and digital online courses and through printed resources. Ms Govender added that: "Learners can register for the *Second Chance Matric Support Programme* at their nearest district office and obtain information regarding the closest venue to access the various platforms of support, which are accessible in all nine provinces".

School Safety Director, Mr Paseka Njobe, reassured members of the community and school principals that the DBE works with the SAPS through an agreed protocol to ensure that schools are safe environments for learning. He further reported that all public schools are linked to their nearest police stations to allow learners, teachers and parents to report any crime-related matters at any time. Mr Njobe told the school principals that the Department will conduct bullying and road safety campaigns during 2017, to ensure that members of school communities work together to fight against any perilous factors that prevent learners from acquiring a quality basic education. Mr Njobe also stated that, "learners need to be educated about road safety to become cautious when using the public roads as pedestrians. Scholar transport regulations will also need to be strengthened and in-school advocacy campaigns implemented so that parents select roadworthy vehicles to transport their children to and from school."

# DBE meets a delegation from Finland to strengthen co-operation in the basic education sector



Basic Education Director-General, Mr Mathanzima Mveli, accompanied by various Department of Basic Education (DBE) senior officials, met with a delegation from Finland, led by Ms Jaana Palojarvi from the Finnish Education Ministry, in Pretoria on 29 May 2017. The delegation included officials from the Finnish Education sector as well as members of the Finnish business community operating in the education sphere.

This delegation is part of a Ministerial delegation led by the Minister of Education and Culture in Finland, Ms Sanni Grahn-Laasonen, who is in the country as part of Finland's Centennial Commemoration of Independence, which is being used to bring focus on youth and innovation throughout the year. Their most important programme in Africa is *CodeBus Africa* which brings together Finnish University Students, South African Learners and Computer Laboratories in various communities. The project, which was launched on 10 May 2017, sets up computer coding workshops for young people, with a special focus on girls and those communities that do not often benefit from the latest technology.

The purpose of the meeting was to exchange lessons and expertise as well as forge collaboration on critical aspects of the basic education sector. The success of the Finnish education system is proof of the significance of quality teachers that are required to improve education outcomes. Finns regard teaching as a noble, prestigious profession - akin to medicine, law, or economics - and one driven by moral purpose rather than material interests. Teachers also are the main reason Finland now leads the international pack in literacy, science and mathematics. In addition, Finland is also known for their high performance in International Studies such as the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) and the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS).

During the meeting, both sides shared and deliberated on respective areas of common interest, such as, curriculum development and implementation; initial and in-service teacher development; vocational education; early childhood education; digitization in education; inclusive education; as well as social cohesion, learner well-being and sport in education.

The Director-General and the Finland Delegation reached mutual agreement that the two parties will continue engagement to exchange expertise in the field of basic education, with a view to have a formalised co-operation agreement in the near future.



# DBE to celebrate 2017 Child Protection Week

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**"LET US ALL PROTECT CHILDREN TO  
MOVE SOUTH AFRICA FORWARD"**



The DBE is committed to its constitutional mandate of delivering quality public education to all children of school going age in the country, irrespective of their race, gender, nationality or any other exclusion. The Department is protective of teaching and learning time, as well as all education spaces; and therefore strives for access to education to be within conducive learning-enhancing environments where there are no threats and disruptions.

School Safety is one of government's initiatives which aim at improving conditions in schools to ensure that learners and educators can operate in protected environments that are amongst others: safer and secure; conducive to effective teaching and learning; and crime and violence free zones.

The main objective of the Department is to create safer and secure environments that appeal to learning and teaching; whilst also striving to create learning institutions with strong community links and increased basic safety conditions to assist in achieving the overall goal of quality learning and teaching. The Department's approach to schools safety, in collaboration with Provincial Education Departments (PEDs), is through increased safety awareness initiatives amongst learners, educators, parents and communities; empowering them to take pro-active steps in addressing crime and violence in and around schools. Programmes have been put in place to assist in the early detection and reduction of threats and disruptions in schools and a co-ordinated approach has been implemented for referrals where the situation requires another means of response by the social and security clusters in communities.

Noting the escalating safety challenges that learners and educators are faced with on a daily basis, the DBE and PEDs will participate in various activities during Child Protection Week which is being commemorated from 28 May 2017 to 04 June 2017.

# Teacher Professional Development remains one of DBE's top priority programmes

The DBE continues to work with the PEDs and Higher Education and Training Institutions (HEIs) in ensuring that teachers are well equipped to deliver the curriculum optimally. In recognition of the key role that teachers play in the provision of quality education to all learners, government and other basic education sector role-players have been placing increased focus into teacher education and development since 2007. At a policy level, *the National Policy Framework for Teacher Education and Development (2007)* and *the Minimum Requirements for Teacher Education Qualifications (2011)* were gazetted by the Department, and *the Integrated Strategic Planning Framework for Teacher Education and Development (ISPFTED-2011)*, was launched by the Ministers of Basic and Higher Education and Training, Mrs Angie Motshekga and Dr Blade Nzimande.

The key levers for improvement of teacher quality put forward by the aforementioned documents are: increased and improved collaborations across Departments and with stakeholders; the introduction of the Funza Lushaka Bursary scheme and information management system; amendments to qualifications requirements; the Continuing Professional Teacher Development (CPTD) management system; establishing and/or strengthening of institutional mechanisms such as national, provincial and district based teacher centres; the establishment of subject committees and promotion of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs); strengthening systems to identify and address teacher development needs; and to build enrolment and delivery capacity in HEIs and to develop teacher professional standards.

The DBE has made considerable progress in mobilising the private sector to collaborate with the education sector in improving quality learning and teaching in South Africa. The DBE and the South African Council for Educators (SACE) continue to collaborate on critical initiatives such as the CPTD Management System and the Teachers Appreciation Support Programme (TASP) to equip teachers in the delivery of the curriculum. The CPTD management system is a collaborative programme between DBE and SACE as per the *SACE Act* and *The National Policy Framework for Teacher Education and Development (NPFTED)*. Mr Haroon Mahomed, the Director for CPTD at the DBE stated that: "The CPTD Management System plays a crucial role in ensuring that more teachers participate in the professional development activities through the points system and added that: "Through this programme teachers are required to sign up on the system and report on the completion of 150 points of professional development in 3 year cycles. Principals and Deputies have completed their first three year cycle, HODs will be completing their first cycle at the end of 2017, and level 1 teachers will be completing their cycle in 2018. Over 1,000 courses have been endorsed. Participation rates require attention as well as monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the programmes."

For the full article click on the below link:

<http://www.education.gov.za/ArchivedDocuments/ArchivedArticles/TeacherProfessionalDevelopment01June.aspx>



# Empowering education districts to improve school functionality and learner performance



Education districts need to be empowered to support schools in delivering quality education for all children in South Africa. The DBE, through its District-Level Planning and Implementation Support Unit, develops and monitors the effective implementation of the *Policy on the Organisation, Roles and Responsibilities of Education Districts*. The Unit, under the leadership of Mr Phillip Tshabalala, plays a vital role in providing leadership to an effective, well-co-ordinated support service to PEDs and education districts. “We facilitate identification of key challenges and blockages to the provision of quality education in the system and lead critical intervention programmes towards effective district support to schools. Overall, we monitor and report on district functionality in the sector,” said Mr Tshabalala.

“The Unit further supports districts that perform below the national average in the National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations. At the beginning of each year, we meet as a team to do an analysis of the results to identify districts that are targeted for improvement support. Workshops are periodically convened with officials from the identified districts to, among others, strengthen and sharpen district management processes to drive quality improvement; and to focus on district targets and turn-around strategies so as to ensure effective districts capable of producing quality learning outcomes.

The Unit also provides more intensive on-site support to identified districts through a mentoring programme centred around district and circuit management systems; improvement of learner performance through development of school improvement plans and subject-level based analysis of the examination results; support to progressed learners; rationalisation and realignment of small and non-viable schools; and Circuit Manager Development, explained Mr Tshabalala.

For the full article click on the below link:

<http://www.education.gov.za/ArchivedDocuments/ArchivedArticles/EmpoweringEducationDistricts01June17.aspx>

# National Anti-Corruption Strategy Discussion Document affects all sectors

Minister in the Presidency, Mr Jeff Radebe, who is also the Chairperson of the Anti-Corruption Inter-Ministerial Committee, launched the National Anti-Corruption Strategy Discussion Document on 14 May 2017 in Pretoria.

The document contains an overview of corruption in the country and proposes a basis for addressing these disturbing incidences to support co-ordination between Government, business and civil society to improve accountability and ethical practice. The *National Development Plan* (NDP), *Vision 2030*, calls for the development of a society with zero tolerance for corruption. All sectors of society are therefore asked to consider the Document and provide input in developing a national strategy. The process of consultation will culminate in the drafting of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) to advise Government on national initiatives for the implementation of strategies to combat corruption across all sectors.

## Provincial Round-up

### North West Province



#### Education and Sport Development

Department of Education and Sport Development  
Departement van Onderwys en Sportontwikkeling  
Lefapha la Thuto le Tlhabololo ya Metshameko

**NORTH WEST PROVINCE**

The North West Education and Sport Development Department conducted a searches and seizure for drugs and weapons campaign in partnership with the SAPS between 22 and 25 May 2017. The campaign focused on three districts: Bojanala, Dr Kenneth Kaunda and Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati. The intervention programme also included Community Dialogues in order for communities to understand safety challenges experienced in schools and how best the communities can play a meaningful role in creating conducive environments for the education of their children and educators. In support of Child Protection Week, the North West Provincial Child Protection Summit will also be hosted at Ngaka Modiri Molema on 02 June 2017, to create a platform of engagement amongst education stakeholders on various social issues including; early marriages; drugs; illegal weapons; bullying; gangsterism; illegal initiation schools; vandalism and school dropout.

# Upcoming Events

- 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
- 03 June 2017: Africa Day will be commemorated at Freedom Park in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 07 June 2017: The National Council Of Provinces Education Budget Vote Debate will be taking place in the NCOP Assembly Chamber, Parliament, Cape Town, in the Western Cape 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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
- 07 June 2017: National Council of Provinces Basic Education Budget Vote Debate in Parliament, Cape Town, Western Cape 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.

