



**basic education**

Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**THUTO**



## NEWSLETTER

# Data Driven Districts Programme Summit and Awards

The DBE partnered with the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation (MSDF) in 2012 to launch the Data Driven Districts programme (DDD). The DDD programme provides provincial, district and school-based leadership with the tools and much needed skills to analyse and interpret data relating to key learning and teaching metrics identified as essential to the improvement of learner outcomes. At the core of the DDD programme is a powerful, easy-to-use management dashboard that visualises data from the South African School Administration and Management System (SA SAMS).

The DDD programme has recently reached a significant milestone and the data for more than 4 million learners is now reflected on the dashboard. From the initial pilot project, the DDD programme has grown to a substantial programme with thousands of trained users, including principals, teachers, district leadership and administrators in five provinces.

In recognition of this achievement, the DDD team hosted a summit on 20 and 21 September 2016 to celebrate the contribution of the officials, administrators and users who have been instrumental in making the programme a success. Mrs Palesa Tyobeka, Deputy Director-General for Planning and Delivery Oversight, and Ms Ayesha Suleman, Deputy Director: EMIS, addressed the delegates and shared their experience of the programme, the Department's integrated EMIS vision and how DDD contributes towards this vision, as well as the Department's own efforts to increase data usage to drive positive change and efficiency in the schooling system.





# Reading Indaba highlights the importance of reading

Reading promotion has been identified as one of the key deliverables of the Department of Basic Education (DBE), and a Reading Promotion Plan was developed which was approved by the Council of Education Ministers (CEM) and the Heads of Education Committee (HEDCOM) for implementation in all Provinces. Members of an External Advisory Reading Office were also appointed by the Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga, to support the implementation of the Reading Promotion Plan and to be at the forefront of reading promotion innovation and thought leadership within the basic education sector.

As part of this Advisory Committee's first committee meeting, a Reading Indaba was held at the DBE in Pretoria on 21 September 2016 to discuss the roles and responsibilities, the structure, operations and the frequency of the committee's meetings, as well as for the Committee to meet with Provincial Curriculum Directors to pave the way forward for the sector. Presentations were made on current reading research reports and focussed discussions were held on reading projects that impact on Grade R to 12 learners, as well as global reading research projects and various social partner collaborations.



## Celebrating the power of literacy and reading

In celebration of International Literacy Day through the *Read to Lead Campaign* the DBE in partnership with the Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) encouraged the learners, parents and teachers at Saxonwold Primary School on 09 September 2016, to read at least 15 minutes a day for pleasure. MEC for Education in Gauteng, Mr Panyaza Lesufi utilised the opportunity to remind everyone that a "reading nation is a leading and informed nation"; and he challenged NGO's and the private sector to support the culture of reading in all official languages within their organisations and their organisational communities. Mr Lesufi also encouraged fifty young writers to write literature works in all of the official languages in order for their publications to be distributed to public school libraries in the Gauteng Province.





# Preparing for the National Senior Certificate examinations



The NSC examinations will commence on 26 October 2016 and conclude on 29 November 2016. Minister Angie Motshekga will announce the outcome of the 2016 National Senior Certificate examinations on 04 January 2017. Candidates will be able to collect their results on 05 January 2017 from the centres where they wrote their examinations.

The minimum requirements for a candidate to obtain a National Senior Certificate are: to achieve at least 40% in three subjects (one of which has to be an official language at a Home Language level); to obtain a further minimum of 30% in three other subjects; and to provide full evidence in the School Based Assessment (SBA) component in the subjects offered and selected.

In support of Grade 12 learners who are preparing for their final school examinations, NSC related resources such as previous examination papers, examination tips, FAQs, etc. are available on the DBE website:

[http://www.education.gov.za/Curriculum/NationalSeniorCertificate\(NSC\)Examinations.aspx](http://www.education.gov.za/Curriculum/NationalSeniorCertificate(NSC)Examinations.aspx)

## World School Milk Day Celebration to form part of the National School Nutrition Programme



Deputy Minister Enver Surty will be commemorating World School Milk Day (WSMD), in collaboration with the Consumer Education Project of Milk South Africa (CEP) and Dewfresh (Pty) Ltd, by officially launching this special day in South Africa on 28 September 2016 at the Petrus Maziya Primary School in Leandra, located in the Gert Sibande District in the Mpumalanga Province.

The first World School Milk Day was celebrated in September 2000 and has since become an annual event held in many countries throughout the world. In South Africa the WSMD will be celebrated for the first time by the DBE under the theme: *A glass of fresh milk daily makes healthy, active and smart children* and will become an annual event commemorated throughout all provinces.

As part of the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP), which aims to enhance the learning capacity of learners through the provision of a healthy meal at schools, milk is being provided to schools once a week as part of the NSNP menu that is being implemented. The DBE, in co-operation with Provincial Education Departments and various social partners will raise awareness and highlight the significance of pasteurised milk and dairy products for growing bodies on the day.



# Sanlam Kay Motsepe Schools Cup National Championship underway



The Sanlam Kay Motsepe Schools Cup National Championship will be taking place in Johannesburg in the Gauteng Province from 04 to 08 October 2016. The Provincial Championships, featuring netball and football as the main sporting codes, are currently taking place across the country which will then lead up to the National Championships. The Sanlam Kay Motsepe Schools Cup is open to public high schools as well as private and independent schools with a R1 million prize for the overall national winner and R600,000; R500,000 and R400,000; for the second, third and fourth placed schools respectively. The Sanlam Kay Motsepe Cup was initiated by Mr Patrice Motsepe through the Motsepe Foundation in memory of his mother and to recognise the integral role she played in his life – encouraging him through school and university.

The DBE, together with the Motsepe Foundation, officially launched and activated a R117,5 million partnership at the Sandton International Convention Centre on 12 April 2016 and aims to implement the *Integrated School Sport Framework* in all schools across the country. This Framework was developed by the Departments of Basic Education and Sport and Recreation. The

main role of the DBE within the framework is to promote mass participation in sporting and cultural activities that are aimed at enriching the curriculum and the development of well rounded learners.

## Inter-Departmental partnership yields good results in the provision of school furniture



The DBE signed an MOU with the Departments of Environmental Affairs (DEA), Correctional Services (DCS) and Labour (DoL) in 2015, in order to expand its capacity to deliver sufficient school furniture to schools across the country, as well as the refurbishing of used school furniture for re-use. A total budget of R147 million has been set aside for the implementation of this MOU which will see the majority of learners in South African public schools benefit from it. This collaboration will play a crucial role in ensuring that every child has a chair and a desk in every classroom to work on and to perform at their optimal ability whilst doing their school work.

The DEA manufactures school furniture made out of biomass from cleared alien invasive plants as part of its Eco-Furniture programme and the DoL contributes their share through their sheltered employment factories that employ people with disabilities for manufacturing school furniture. The DCS,

on the other hand, uses inmates as part of their rehabilitation and skill development programme to manufacture new furniture, as well as the repair of damaged school furniture for re-use.

The Director for Physical Resources Planning and Rural Schooling at the DBE, Mr Ramasedi Mafoko, said that these Government entities also supply furniture for the Accelerated School Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (ASIDI). “The collaboration also assists Provinces to supply school furniture across the country. Through this project we have already delivered school furniture to the Mpumalanga, Eastern Cape, North West, KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo Provinces,” remarked Mr Mafoko.

A total of 1,727 schools were targeted to receive 237,478 units of school furniture in order for 474,956 learners to benefit from the initiative. Approximately 1,995,413 units have already been delivered to schools. The final deliveries to 304 schools have been successfully completed and reconciliation of deliveries is being completed. Through this initiative, over 1,500 furniture units were also delivered to schools in the Vuwani area after the schools were torched during community protests during May this year. This is an indication that the DBE is committed to ensure that all learners are provided with conducive public schooling environments in order to receive the quality education that they deserve.



# Celebrating National Heritage Month



## HERITAGE MONTH

Celebrating our Human Treasures by Asserting our African Identity - September 2016



basic education  
Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

[www.education.gov.za](http://www.education.gov.za)

• [callcentre@dbe.gov.za](mailto:callcentre@dbe.gov.za)

• call centre: 0800 202 933



September is National Heritage Month and the 2016 theme is *Human Treasures and Legends: our Living Heritage*. The Minister of Arts and Culture (DAC) launched Heritage Month on 01 September 2016, announcing that the national Heritage celebrations will be held in the Northern Cape Province on 24 September 2016. The DAC intends to promote the theme in partnership with institutions that are located in various communities.

Although South Africa's *Constitution* promotes and recognises the right of communities to practise their culture, religion and languages, there is continuous loss and neglect of South Africa's unique cultural practices and beliefs due to a variety of reasons. Also, although South Africa has a rich and diverse intangible cultural heritage, there is no documentation or inventory of living human treasures and legends and their knowledge or skills in South Africa. Intangible Cultural Heritage or Living Heritage provides communities, groups and individuals with a sense of identity and continuity.

The DAC has therefore developed a national policy on Living Heritage in South Africa. Some of the aims of this policy framework, once it is approved, are the following: empowering communities and individuals in safeguarding their heritage; recognising the role played by various stakeholders (including communities and civil society organisations) towards living heritage; and providing the scope for Government to facilitate and monitor the identification and safeguarding of living heritage. The Living Legends Legacy Programme and the recognition of South Africa's living human treasures was therefore conceptualised. The living human treasures and the living legends are the custodians of the indigenous knowledge essential for building the South African nation. They are critical in the transmission of knowledge and skills of South Africa's living heritage to the younger generations.



# Tales Untold by Ms Sizakele Mile: Embracing heritage to fight divisions amongst people of diverse ethnic groups



Ms Sizakele Mile joined the DBE as a Senior Secretary within the Planning and Rural Schooling Directorate in 2013. She dedicated her feature to Heritage Month to acknowledge the role heritage plays in our lives as diverse members of society.

"I strongly believe that culture is a way of life that shapes the way in which we interact with other people from various ethnic groups. The most fundamental aspect about culture is the identification of our roots as individuals and custodians for the generations to come. I was born to a Sesotho speaking mother and a Setswana speaking father. I was, however, later adopted by and raised in a Zulu speaking family. From as early as Grade 3, I received Model C schooling. It was in this schooling environment when I realised the importance of cultural tolerance. Fortunately, we live in a democratic country, which grants individuals the rights to implement whichever cultural belief they value. I believe that if we do not tolerate each other as citizens of the rainbow nation, it will indeed be difficult to move South Africa forward.

An amusing memory of my adolescence was to learn to behave in certain ways at certain places. For instance, I was never allowed to talk back to adults and always had to look down when I was being reprimanded by an adult at home. Yet at school, teachers would become very impatient when they spoke to me and I did not respond, looking down on the ground. I therefore had to embrace a variety of cultures to become who I am today: I have inherited some, learned others from my family and adopted others as a matter of survival.

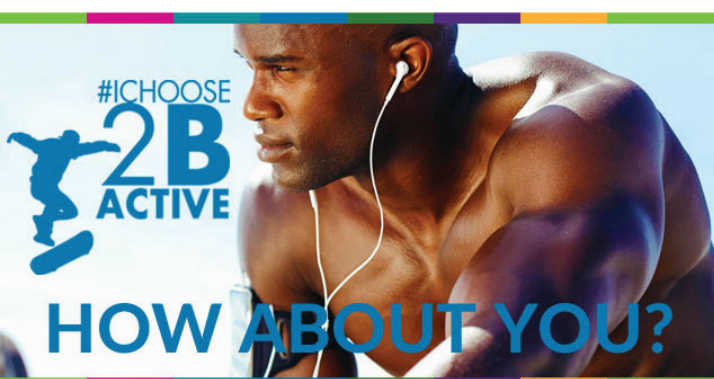
I feel grateful that I was afforded an opportunity to receive a quality education in this country. I am also appreciative of the fact that the DBE gave me an opportunity to advance my career. The knowledge I gained over the years is quite fulfilling. I would like to advise South Africans to be patient in life with one another and to indulge in every interactive moment with another living creature. Always remember that good things come to those who wait. Thus, in our day to day activities, we should not try to avoid challenges but rather find ways to address them as this will allow us to learn and to evolve as human beings. Always trust your conscience, it is your compass and will never lead you astray. Knowing who we are is not only a gift to ourselves, but to the generations that will be here after us. Always be in a position to hand down the honour, pride and courage that comes with our heritage."

## National Recreation Day 2016 Campaign urges South African citizens to choose to be active

### SAVE THE DATE

**WHEN: 07 OCTOBER 2016**

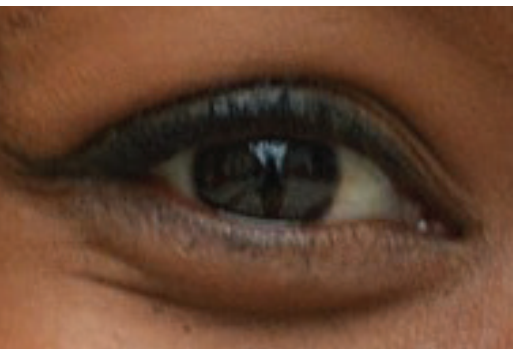
**WHERE: LUCAS VAN DEN BERG  
(Danville Sports Complex)**



The Department of Sport and Recreation will be hosting its second National Recreation Day campaign on 07 October 2016 at Tshwane's Lucas Van Den Berg Stadium (Danville Sports Complex). South Africa today, like the rest of the world is facing a variety of challenges, incorporating everything from obesity, cardiac disease, diabetes, respiratory ailments, an aging population, an increase in sedentary lifestyles and therefore loss of personal interaction and fitness, youth unemployment, high levels of violence and conflict between people. It is against this framework that the need to get an active citizenry campaign to drive the South African population to develop an ethic of being physically active becomes mandatory. The active citizenry campaign driving this programme called, "*I choose 2 B Active. How About You?*" encourages citizens to lead an active recreational lifestyle. Government is calling upon citizens as well as government employees to be part of the activities on the day, a day which is guaranteed to promote physical exercise in a fun way to lead an active and healthy lifestyle.

The hashtag to follow is **#Ichoose2BActive**.

# Commemorating World Retina Week to raise funds for research to find treatments for retinal blindness



World Retina Week, which will be commemorated from 18 to 24 September 2016 is observed in over 42 countries to create momentum in scientific, government and civil structures to hasten the miraculous journey from blindness to sight for millions of people world-wide with retinal conditions. The remarkable progress that has been made in the fields of gene therapy, stem cells and artificial retinas will be lost if patients with these rare conditions cannot be identified by researchers. Retinal conditions such as Macular Degenerations and Dystrophies, Retinitis, Pigmentosa and Stargardt Disease cause a loss of vision in over 40 million people worldwide, including South Africans. International clinical trials to find effective treatments are showing great promise and Retina South Africa has now ensured that South African patients can join the international data base that will connect patients to the correct researchers.

Retina South Africa is a patient run NPO with branches in the Gauteng, the Eastern Cape and the Western Cape Provinces. Their main objective is to raise funds for research to find treatments for retinal blindness and to ensure that all South Africans have access to these miracles. South Africans are invited to support their vision quest. Visit their website for additional information at: [www.retinasa.org.za](http://www.retinasa.org.za)

# Provincial Round-up

## Free State



Education districts play a central role in ensuring that all learners have access to quality education. Districts, through their direct link with schools, are often the only vehicle for initiating, testing, driving and sustaining systemic reforms in the schooling system. The *National Development Plan: Vision 2030*, states that districts have a responsibility to “provide targeted support to improve practices within schools, and to ensure communication and information sharing between authorities and schools.”

Director-General of Basic Education, Mr Mathanzima Mveli, completed the last leg of the Free State Provincial roadshow in Bloemfontein and Welkom on 16 September 2016. The roadshows, mainly focussing on the imperatives and implementation of the NDP, began in August 2016, with DG Mveli having visited the Mpumalanga, North West, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape and Free State Provinces.

The roadshows are aimed at re-affirming the *Policy on the Organisation, Roles and Responsibilities of Education Districts*, which was gazetted and promulgated by Minister Motshekga in April 2013. The meetings also provided DG Mveli and the Minister, who attended some of the roadshows, with an opportunity to share and outline the imperatives of the NDP with senior district officials and principals, and how these relate to policy on education districts, the districts’ capacity to support schools, resourcing and general priorities of the sector. Senior managers from the DBE accompanied the DG to all the roadshows to share and discuss the implementation of the NDP, and to share good practices amongst all provinces visited during the past year.

Some of the issues on the agenda were: the findings of the School Principals’ rating survey of support received from district offices; the 2015 National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examination Results; the 2016 NSC Supplementary Examination Results; the 2016 NSC Examinations, the preliminary SACMEQ IV results and the role of school principals. The roadshows will be completed at the end of October 2016 with visits to the Limpopo Province.



# Upcoming Events

- 23 September 2016: ASIDI hand-over of Ndakana Primary School, Qumbu, in the Eastern Cape Province
- 24 September 2016: Heritage Day
- 28 September 2016: Deputy Minister Enver Surty will be delivering a keynote address during World Milk Day at the Petrus Maziya School in the Gert Sibanda District in the Mpumalanga Province
- October 2016: Teacher Appreciation Month
- 01 October 2016: The National Spelling Bee Championships will be taking place at UNISA in Pretoria
- 03 – 04 October 2016: The Transnet Rural and Farm Schools National Tournament will be taking place at Germiston Stadium, in the Gauteng Province
- 03 – 07 October 2016: Heritage Education Schools Outreach Programme, North West Province
- 04 October 2016: A Consultative Forum will be taking place for the establishment of a National Teachers' Association for English Language Teachers and Provincial Teachers' Associations at the DBE in Pretoria
- 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 – 08 October 2016: Sixth National School Moot Court Competition
- 05 October 2016: World Teachers' Day
- 18 – 19 October 2016: The Digital Education Show Africa will be taking place at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg
- 26 October to 29 November 2016: 2016 National Senior Certificate Examinations
- 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.

