



basic education

Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



## NEWSLETTER

# Minister Motshekga launches Hospitality Studies Digital Curriculum Project in partnership with Sun International



The Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga, launched the Hospitality Studies Digital Curriculum Project in partnership with Sun International at Tembisa High School in Ekurhuleni on 19 April 2017. The theme of the project is *21st Century Education for 21st Century Hoteliers*. The Hospitality Studies Digital Curriculum Project developed digital content for Hospitality Studies for Grades 10,11 and 12 which will be accessible to teachers and learners from anywhere in the country.

In light of the DBE's research that shows that there is a decline in the number of Public Schools offering Hospitality Studies to Learners in Grades 10 to 12, there are currently approximately 300 schools in South Africa which offer the subject. The decline is being attributed to a shortage of suitably qualified educators, as well as the cost of equipment and resources required for effective teaching and learning to take place in the subject. The project is therefore aimed at improving pedagogy, resources and results using digital technology to ignite interest in institutions which offers hospitality as a subject.

The Minister was joined by the Gauteng MEC for Education, Mr Panyaza Lesufi, the CEO of Sun International, Mr Anthony Leeming and various other stakeholders, including local community leaders and Provincial Education Officials.

Click on the below link for the media statement:

<http://www.education.gov.za/Newsroom/MediaRelease/tabid/347/ctl/Details/mid/5986/ItemID/4358/Default.aspx>

# HEDCOM meeting held in the Eastern Cape Province



Head of the Eastern Cape Provincial Education Department, Mr Themba Kojana, hosted a HEDCOM meeting, which was attended by Director-General for Basic Education, Mr Mathanzima Mweli, other Heads of Provincial Education Departments and officials from the DBE and Provincial Education Departments at the Education Leadership Institute in East London on 11 April 2017.

On the agenda for the meeting were the Guidelines for Norms and Standards for Provincial Teacher Development Institutes and District Teacher Development Centres. “My Department has made minor adaptations to these to reflect our context and we will ensure that our four PTDIs and nine District Teacher Development Centres meet these Norms and Standards over the next three years. We have been appointing heads of each institute and centre and provided connectivity to enhance our training programmes,” said Mr Kojana.

The Province recently re-tabled their Strategic Plan; the 2017/18 Annual Performance Plan; and published the Head Office Operational Plan and 12 District Operational Plans. These plans see the implementation of a Service Delivery Model with a refined Head Office organogram and 12 Districts which have been streamlined from the former 23 Districts to benefit the 1,6 million learners in the Province.

A total of 96% of all ordered textbooks had been delivered to schools by 31 March 2017. The remaining 4% will be delivered during the first week of the second term. The Province has also addressed the court order requirement that every learner has a chair and desk, and outstanding furniture at a small number of schools will be delivered during the first week of the second school term. However, there still remains a lot to be done in the Province with the finalising of Learning and Teaching Support Material (LTSM) and the provision of furniture to be finalised during April 2017.



# Blended Short Learning Programme: Managing and Leading Education with Digital Technologies comes to an end



“We have now come to the end of our Short Learning Programme (SLP) on *Managing and Leading Education with Digital Technologies*. Approximately 155 of the 166 participants have successfully completed this course. This means that 93% of course participants have achieved their credits towards a post-graduate qualification at the University of Johannesburg (UJ). This is more than expected which suggests that the intervention has been very successful,” said Dr Aaron Nkosi, Director for Curriculum **and Teacher Development Research**.

The SLP consisted of a three day workshop followed by five online work sessions over a four month period. UJ also continues to guide and support course participants to acquire a sound knowledge base in the field of study concerned; scholarly and/or professional and/or technological dispositions, attributes and competencies appropriate to the field of study and/or future careers; academic abilities, professional and employability knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that will enable participation in society as high-level human resources with a view to promoting growth and prosperity; and competencies and attitudes necessary for lifelong learning.

The purpose of the SLP is to enable education officials in the DBE, as well as Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) to effectively harness the potential of digital technologies in support of their management and leadership roles. With the final release of the marks, participants will also be asked to complete a short exit level survey so that they have an opportunity to provide feedback to record their experiences of participation in this course to share their ideas on how the programmes can be improved.

“Contact week commenced at UJ, Auckland Park Campus on 11 July 2016 with an official ceremony where the Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga, delivered the keynote address. During the course, participants were encouraged to aim for a 100% completion rate. Practical sessions over the three days were well attended and elicited enthusiastic participation. The academic and social spaces in which the participants engaged proved to be a healthy environment with topical and authentic subject matter,” mentioned Dr Nkosi.

The selected topics for the programme are relevant in an emerging and evolving educational landscape, and are sufficiently agile to dynamically influence and enable better learning outcomes for the participants in the programme. The programme is sufficiently responsive to the needs of both developed and developing contexts and influential in shaping the future in both contexts. It makes provision for the exploration of a range of pedagogies that are appropriate for the diversity of contexts in which Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are used for educational purposes. Certification will be conferred during the various provincial graduation ceremonies which will be taking place in April 2017. A follow-up conference will be hosted by UJ where all participants will be invited to share their experiences during July 2017.



# Update on the Review of the Policy on Home Education



Home Education is a purposeful education programme, used for a learner as an alternative to school attendance, and which is provided under the direction and supervision of the learner's parent, primarily in the environment of the learner's home. Home Education is recognised in the *South African Schools Act, 84 of 1996* (SASA) as a lawful alternative to compulsory attendance at a school. The provision of Home Education is supplemented by the *Policy for the Registration of Learners for Home Education*, which was promulgated on 23 November 1999, setting out national norms and standards which apply uniformly across all PEDs. Home Education is growing in popularity in South Africa, as the legal environment affecting Home Education has substantially changed, hence the need for a policy review process that has been set in motion by the DBE.

A working group, consisting of representatives from the DBE, PEDs, Umalusi, parents, the Independent Schools Association of South Africa (ISASA), the South African Comprehensive Assessment Institute (SACAI), South African Institute for Distance Education (SAIDE) and Impaq (representing independent curriculum service providers), that attended two consultation meetings held in 2014 and 2015 respectively, was established to outline the principles from the Draft Discussion Document on which a new Policy could be based. Draft three of the Policy was completed towards the end of 2016 and was tabled at the Council for Education Ministers (CEM) meeting during March 2017. Inputs received from the Council necessitated that the Policy be strengthened, which has led to a revised draft which will now be presented to the Heads of Education Departments Committee (HEDCOM) before being re-submitted to CEM for consideration.

Parents opt for Home Education for different reasons such as travelling distances to schools (especially farming communities), learners with disabilities, religion, a nomadic life style and many more. The recent Provincial Oversight Visits that were conducted during January to March 2017 presented an opportunity for the teams to meet home educating families. These visits involved interviews with parents and learners, the monitoring of curriculum delivery and material provision, the monitoring of learners' portfolios, as well as exposure to extra-curricular activities learners participate in including the rendition of music using instruments. The visits allowed the team to understand the scope and the scale of Home Education in South Africa. Knowledge and information gathered from the visits have added value into the Policy review process. It is anticipated that the Policy will be published for public comment upon approval by CEM, during June/July 2017.

Studies in Home Education indicate that a parent who undertakes to educate a child at home is typically highly motivated and prepared to make considerable investments of time, money, energy and resourcefulness to contribute to his/her child's learning. Home Education may not generally be a choice available to parents who are without the means or who may be working or are seeking employment. Further research indicates that the profile of parents who educate their children at home is becoming more diverse. It must be noted though that not all parents and learners who embark on Home Education are able to sustain the effort. For such families public and private schools are still an alternative.



# Departments of Basic Education and Sport and Recreation host the 2017 South African Schools National Aquatics Championships



The Departments of Basic Education and Sport and Recreation hosted the 2017 South African Schools National Aquatics Championships in the Limpopo Province from 10 to 13 April 2017. The Aquatics Championships recognises participants from provincial school teams, including learners with disabilities, who participate in swimming as a sporting code.

On 09 April 2017, the Minister of Sport and Recreation, Mr Thembelani Nxesi, accompanied by the Limpopo MECs for Education and Sport, Arts and Culture, Mr Ishmael Kgetjepe and Ms Onica Moloi, officially declared the Aquatics Championships opened at the Jake Botes Hall in Polokwane. Minister Nxesi said: “We are all here today, brought together to celebrate a specific sporting code, swimming, but beyond that we are part of something much bigger - united in the belief that sport and recreation is a critical part of a holistic education and a healthy and purposeful life”. Mr Nxesi concluded his speech by quoting the late President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela: “Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else can. Sport can awaken hope where there was previously only despair”.

Gauteng Province was the first place winner with a total of 1,769 points, 74 gold medals, 48 silver medals and 32 bronze medals. KwaZulu-Natal Province took second place with 1,381 points, 38 gold medals, 36 silver medals and 35 bronze medals; and Mpumalanga Province finished in third place with a total of 877 points, 12 gold medals, 14 silver medals and 16 bronze medals.

Speaking at the closing ceremony on 14 April 2017, Director for Schools Sport at the Department of Sport and Recreation, Mr Tebogo Thebehae, extended his gratitude to the learners and the teachers from the various schools and provinces, the Polokwane swimming pool managers, national and provincial education officials, as well as the Local Organising Committee (LOC) for their support provided.



# 23 April - World Book and Copyright Day



World Book Day is an annual event which takes place on 23 April and is organised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), to promote reading, publishing and copyright. It was first celebrated in 1995 and is observed by millions of people in over 100 countries through thousands of voluntary organisations, schools, professional groups and private businesses.

The World Book Day national celebrations in South Africa 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 indigenous languages and easy access to books for all.

The objectives of World Book Day Celebrations are:

- To raise awareness about the importance of reading;
- To reach out and provide people access to books;
- To educate people to take care of their library facilities; and
- To celebrate books.

In commemoration of this special day, Minister Angie Motshekga will be celebrating World Book Day at Regina Mundi Catholic Church in Soweto in support of the *Read to Lead Campaign*, which was officially launched on 22 July 2015 and will continue until 2019. The focus of the Campaign is to improve the reading abilities of all South African children whilst the main aim of the Campaign is to ensure that all learners are able to demonstrate age appropriate levels of reading by 2019. Children should be motivated to make reading a lifestyle choice and the Campaign is a collective effort of Government, teachers, parents and communities to change attitudes and instil a passion for this critical skill.

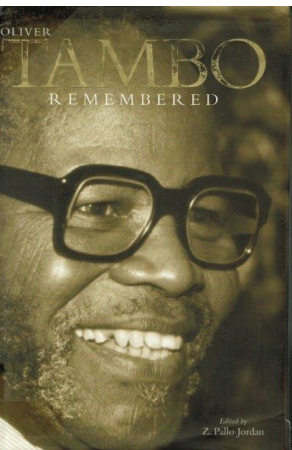
Show your support for World Book Day by supporting the *Read to Lead* campaign through some of the following ways:

- By visiting a community library and borrowing books for you and your family to read;
- By donating books that you and your family no longer use (and are still in a good condition) to a disadvantaged school;
- By co-ordinating a book collection drive in your community in order to donate books to a disadvantaged school in your area;
- By co-ordinating family, friends and community members to revitalise a library in a disadvantaged school;
- By reading to your children; and/or learners at a school; and/or the elderly members in your community; and
- By sharing your love for reading and your favourite authors with your friends and family to further encourage affection for reading.

# IRC Book review: *The Year of Oliver Reginald Tambo*

The Department of Arts and Culture (DAC), in collaboration with the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development and in consultation with the Presidency, declared 2017 as *The OR Tambo Centenary* as a fitting tribute to mark Oliver Reginald Tambo's selfless and fervent effort towards democratic transition and as an advocate for human rights. "*The Year of OR Tambo: Unity in Action in Advancing Human Rights*" will raise awareness and promote respect for basic human rights. During Africa Month, a special commemoration will also be taking place at Freedom Park in Pretoria on 27 May 2017 in honour of the late Tambo: a great teacher, lawyer and hero. In celebration of this special commemorative year the Information Research Centre (IRC) has chosen the following titles for this month's book review:

## Oliver Tambo Remembered - His Life in Exile

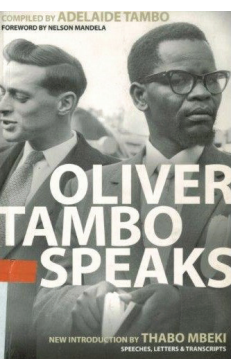


**Author: Tambo, O**

**Dewey number: 920 TAM**

A celebration of Tambo, South African leader, clergyman and comrade. This book contains contributions from those who encountered Tambo and knew him when he was living in South Africa and the United Kingdom (UK) on his travels, including Nelson and Winnie Mandela and Desmond Tutu. *Tambo in Exile* is a salute to one of South Africa's most remarkable individuals. On what would have been Oliver Tambo's 90th birthday, friends and associates remember the leader and celebrate his impact on South African history.

## Oliver Tambo speaks



**Author: Tambo, O**

**Dewey number: 920 TAM**

In *Oliver Tambo Speaks*, one of the principal architects of the *new* South Africa expresses his thoughts on what the ANC was, what it became in order to liberate South Africa from oppression and what it should evolve into in order to provide a better life for all. Aside from being a vital historical document, *Oliver Tambo Speaks* presents us with fresh perspective on our current situation from one of the greatest political thinkers that South Africa has produced.

## South Africa-China High Level People-to-People Exchange Mechanism



South Africa and the People's Republic of China have signed several agreements on co-operation in different fields, including a Co-operation Agreement in the field of Basic Education, signed on 26 March 2013 during the Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) Summit in South Africa. The partnership between the two parties forms part of a strategic programme signed during President Jacob Zuma's state visit to China on 04 December 2014.



Through the Co-operation Agreement between South Africa and China, both parties committed to forge close mutual technical collaboration, teacher training and expertise exchanges in the field of education, particularly in critical fields such as Mathematics, Science and Technology, as building blocks for the growth of knowledge economies in the respective countries. The Agreement also commits parties to work together in introducing Mandarin language teaching in South Africa. The Department has since introduced Mandarin as an elective foreign language in the South African school curriculum and Ambassador Tian Xuejun said that the implementation of Mandarin language teaching in South Africa will enable the partnership to grow even stronger.

People-to-people exchanges have assumed an ever increasing role in Government's diplomatic practice over the past years. Owing to the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between South Africa and China, a need was identified to initiate a mechanism that would facilitate people-to-people exchanges between both countries. The proposed South Africa-China High Level People-to-People Exchange Mechanism (PPEM) would add to the already existing strategic relations between our two countries. In addition to Government to Government engagements, it would create opportunities for non-government entities across academia, business and civil society to interact more frequently through organised structures.



# Provincial Round-up

## Northern Cape



The Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Mr Mduduzi Manana, launched the 2017 Apply Now/Khetha Career Guidance Campaign in Kuruman, in the Northern Cape Province during March 2017, addressing over three thousand learners at three secondary schools namely, Phakane Secondary School, Galaletsang Science High School and KP Toto Technical and Commercial Secondary School, located in the Ga-Segonyana Local Municipality. The Campaign will be rolled out nationally between March and September 2017. The Apply Now/Khetha Career Guidance Campaign encourages current matric learners to apply on time for admission to post-school institutions for the following year and thus avert long queues that take place at the beginning of each academic year.

The Career Guidance component of the Campaign informs learners from Grade 9 to 12 about career choices available within the Post-School Education and Training (PSET) sector. The *Decade of the Artisan* advocacy programme that commenced during 2014 and will end during 2024, addresses the importance to deliver approximately 30,000 artisans per annum by the year 2030 in accordance with the *National Development Plan* (NDP). The skills needs of the country necessitate a massive production of artisans within the TVET college system. The DBE has, to this end, developed three streams of curricula (Academic, Vocational and Technical), which address the diverse needs of young people for learning and development in South African schools. The DBE is working with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) to better influence the quality and preparation of our teachers, and ultimately, our learners, in critical subjects including Mathematics, Science and Technology, and the African Languages.



# Upcoming Events

- 21 April 2017: A Ministerial Imizo will be taking place in Sedibeng in the Gauteng Province
- 21 April 2017: Director-General, Mr Mathanzima Mveli, to continue his Provincial Engagement Visits at Chief Albert Luthuli School, Daveyton, Gauteng Province
- 23 April 2017: World Book Day will be celebrated at the Regina Mundi Catholic Church in Soweto, Gauteng Province
- 24 April 2017: The National School Nutrition (NSNP) will be hosted in the Western Cape Province
- 24 April 2017: Director-General, Mr Mathanzima Mveli, to continue his Provincial Engagement Visits at Grace Bible Church, Pimville, Soweto, Gauteng Province
- 25 April 2017: Minister Motshekga to launch of the News for Kids Newsletter in Soweto, Gauteng Province
- 25 April 2017: Director-General, Mr Mathanzima Mveli, to continue his Provincial Engagement Visits at Soshanguve East Secondary School in Shoshanguve, Gauteng Province
- 27 April 2017: Freedom Day
- 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.