



**basic education**

Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**THUTO**



## NEWSLETTER

# Government and private sector expand ICT resources to learners in remote areas



Basic Education Deputy Minister, Mr Enver Surty, joined by the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education, Ms Nomalungelo Gina, officially handed over resources for a multi-media centre to Mpotholo Primary School in KwaZulu-Natal on 15 May 2017. This donation from AVBOB included 10 laptops and a trolley library with relevant reading material.

Addressing the Mpotholo Village community members, Ms Gina said: "This is our second visit to your village. Earlier this year, we met with the school principal to discuss the challenges faced by learners on a daily basis. During the meeting, we were informed that your school had a 90% pass rate in 2016. Based on the performance and challenges of your school, we made it our mission to assist; and we are here today to fulfil the promise that we made to you then".

In his address, Deputy Minister Surty mentioned that Government and the private sector will continue working together to create an environment that is conducive to learning for all South African learners. "The most critical areas that still require improvement in this sector are library provisioning and the expansion of ICT connectivity in public schools," said the Deputy Minister. The Deputy Minister further stated that the DBE has made huge strides in improving quality education in schools, adding that, "more than 99% of schools are now connected to ICT for administrative purposes, whilst 56% of schools are connected to ICT for academic purposes."

Deputy Minister Surty used the opportunity to highlight the achievements of the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP), which provides more than 9,3 million learners with a balanced diet on a daily basis. The NSNP plays a crucial role in ensuring that learners do not attend class with empty tummies. Mr Surty also promised the principal that Government will ensure that the school receives additional resources such as water and sanitation required to improve its functionality. "We really need to encourage more partners to come on board to enhance ICT connectivity in our schools. ICT should not be a dream, but the tools of the trade to transform the education landscape in the country," the Deputy Minister concluded, expressing his gratitude to AVBOB for their valuable contribution.

The AVBOB Provincial Manager in the KwaZulu-Natal Province, Mr Vusimuzi Khethi, told the attendees that working with Government in improving quality education in the Intermediate Phase is critical because learners need to be empowered to proceed to the other grades having mastered critical skills such as reading, writing and counting: "Our partnership focuses on library provisioning in all provinces to promote a reading culture within the school environment," remarked Mr Khethi, adding that more than 46 mobile libraries have been provided to South African schools owing to the partnership.





# Deputy Minister Enver Surty hands over R81 million ASIDI school to the Du Noon community in the Western Cape Province



Deputy Minister Enver Surty officially handed over Du Noon Primary School in Cape Town, Western Cape Province as part of the Accelerated Schools Infrastructure Development Initiative (ASIDI) Programme.

Built at a cost of R81 million, the school, which currently enrolls 1,400 learners, is one of two state-of-the-art ASIDI schools built in Du Noon as part of the 179 ASIDI schools completed to date.

As with all ASIDI schools, the school is provided with a Media Centre, a Science Laboratory, a Computer Laboratory and a Nutrition Centre. The school facilities will provide better opportunities for a brighter future for learners in this economically-challenged area.

In addition to the provision of school infrastructure, ASIDI has also provided water to 615 schools, sanitation to 425 schools and electricity to 307 schools across the country.

## DBE and the Embassy of France continue working together to improve quality education in South Africa





Basic Education Director-General, Mr Mathanzima Mveli, met with the new French Ambassador, HE Mr Christophe Farnaud, in Pretoria on 11 May 2017, to discuss the partnership agreement signed between the DBE and the French Embassy during 2014. Mr Farnaud also paid a courtesy visit to Minister Angie Motshekga 05 May 2017. The partnership between the DBE and the French Embassy has set out a co-operation agreement on various key areas, including the promotion of French Language teaching in South African schools and improving the effective implementation of the NSNP.

Mr Mveli said that French co-operation in respect of the NSNP will assist Government in promoting healthy lifestyles among school learners. The French Government has been supporting the DBE through the “So Chef” Programme, which was established through workshops where executive chefs visit identified schools to equip learners with the necessary skills required in the hospitality industry. The Programme has the potential of growing in scope and scale to include more schools in the country.

The DBE believes that the partnership with France will add value to the three-stream model as it includes aviation, vocational education, training of teachers and the motor industry. The partnership will also strengthen school leadership through training workshops to groom educators to become future school principals, as school leadership has been identified as one of the critical areas that require improvement.

French language is currently being offered as a subject in South African public schools as a second additional language since the introduction of the National Curriculum Statement (NCS) in 2008. A proposal received from the French Embassy to version the CAPS for English Second Additional Language (Grades 4 – 12) into French, as part of the support for teachers teaching French language as a subject, has seen this process being completed at the end of January 2017.

Both the Ambassador and the Director-General confirmed their commitment to sustain the partnership in the above-mentioned areas to further improve quality education in South Africa.



## European Union Support Programme contributes to improved learner performance in Literacy and Numeracy at primary school level





The European Union (EU) has been providing budgetary support to the Department of Basic Education (DBE) through the *Primary Education Sector Policy Support Programme* (PrimED SPSP) Financing Agreement that was negotiated and signed during 2010. To date, the EU support to the DBE has been the biggest single donation for primary schooling in the country with a total contribution of €122,680,000 (estimated at R1,500,000,000) provided since the inception of the Programme.

The overall objective of the Programme was to contribute to improved learner performance in Literacy and Numeracy at primary school level; and to strengthen fundamental elements of the General Education and Training (GET) Programme that are key to improving the quality of education delivery at primary school level. A special focus was placed on: expanding access to quality Early Childhood Development (ECD) opportunities, especially for poor communities; effective implementation of the curriculum; and attracting and ensuring appropriately qualified and competent teachers in all learning areas at all levels, and on scarce skills, in particular.

The Programme was fully aligned to the Ministry and the Government’s vision for improving the quality of education in the country and is focused on strengthening the system’s capacity to provide quality education at primary school level, thus laying a solid foundation for future success.

The majority of the resources were allocated to the following priority areas: the recruitment of quality teachers into Initial Teacher Training to attract quality Foundation Phase teachers with the capacity to teach in indigenous languages; a vibrant teacher development system that will ensure that practicing primary school teachers are fully supported at all times to continuously improve on their teaching skills and in the implementation of the curriculum; and the provision of resources for learning, particularly for the poorest schools. The resources mainly focussed on the effective development of the requisite skills and competencies in Literacy and Numeracy.

The Programme came to an end in April 2017 and is currently being evaluated by an international team of three independent evaluators led by Mr Mike Douse (Ireland), Dr Robert McBride (Cape Town) and Mr Gerald Nyamatcherenga (Malawi). The evaluation commenced on 18 April 2017 during a briefing meeting held at the DBE offices in Pretoria. The team then proceeded to undertake provincial visits to the Limpopo, Mpumalanga and Gauteng provinces to assess the impact of the support provided. Interviews have taken place with a wide range of stakeholders who received funding through the EU support.

Over the past seven years, a total of 30 projects have been supported by the Programme and there is overwhelming evidence of the impact that has been made. This year, South Africa and the European Union are also celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the SA-EU Strategic Partnership. In light of the above, the DBE expresses its gratitude to the EU for the assistance provided in general, and through this Programme in particular.

“In receiving an exceptional education, an individual embraces a responsibility to foster such opportunities for others.” *Nelson Mandela*

## Celebrating Africa Month during May: What does being African mean to you?



As an integral part of the African continent, South Africa and all South Africans are celebrating Africa Month during May. Africa Month seeks to increase co-operation, appreciation and the demand for arts and culture goods and services to stimulate competitive markets for Intra-Africa trade. Africa Month was officially launched on 03 May 2017 under the theme “*The Year of OR Tambo: Building a Better Africa and a Better World!*” When asked what Africa Month means to him, DBE employee, Mr Sifiso Sibiya, who grew up in a small village, Middleplaas, near the town of Malelane in the Mpumalanga Province, said that education was a liberating factor in his life. Harboursing wishes of a *healed society*, he wanted to become a medical doctor. Instead, he joined the DBE and is currently working in the Learning and Teaching Support Materials (LTSM) Directorate to fulfil his role in the “healing of the education sector”.

“Through indigenous knowledge, Africa will achieve gender equity, youth empowerment and the provision of basic services such as health, nutrition, education, shelter, water, sanitation, and ownership and control. As a citizen of a continental village and as a government official, the quest for the aspirations of the *AU Agenda 2063* makes me more vigilant to assist in delivering on the above”.

“The founding principles of Africa Month underpin teaching and learning processes and products, aimed at foregrounding social cohesion and the approach to life-long learning in schools. The celebration of cultural diversity during the Month will develop the thinking and problem-solving skills of African learners, whilst providing them with an added advantage when competing in the global space. Africanism reinforces social solidity and communal behaviourism, which is the moral twine of every society. It is this moral yarn that will support the quest for Africa to cultivate innovation and creativity through shared heritage, history, and culture. Once Africa has succeeded in this envisaged social solidity, a unified economy in Africa will be possible. This makes me proud to contribute to the education sector in this constitutional democracy within the world economy. Our education system promotes critical and creative thinking skills that are needed for the sustenance and development of the African continent as a whole”.

# The Year of OR Tambo Unity in Action



The Year of OR Tambo:  
BUILDING A BETTER  
**AFRICA**  
AND A BETTER  
**WORLD**

#AfricaDay #AfricaMonth



## Education DialogueSA: Mobilising South Africans to shape education policy



The National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT) is hosting a series of public policy dialogues on education to enable a broad spectrum of South African citizens to reflect and help shape education policy for the future. The dialogue series focuses on Basic Education policies, but also considers issues pertaining to Higher Education and Training that have a bearing on basic education. The series will culminate in a public document that sets out observations from the past 20 years and recommendations about the future of education, to be released before the end of June 2017.

The dialogue series is being conducted under the multi-stakeholder Education DialogueSA Forum that is co-chaired by Prof Ihron Rensburg and Deputy Minister of Basic Education, Mr Enver Surty, and focuses on five themes considered to have the greatest impact on the system and the success of learners: teachers, curriculum, governance, resourcing and rural education. A 12 member steering committee, chaired by Prof John Volmink, is overseeing and directing the process.

“There is increasing discourse between members of the public which has been taking place outside of the *normal* spaces where conversations on policy conventionally take place. The series seeks to recognise the value of such discourse and assist the public to influence education policy through facilitating broader public reflection and inputs into the education policy” says Minister Angie Motshekga.

## Provincial Round-up



### Western Cape Province

The Western Cape Provincial Education Department reports that the matric pass rate in the Western Cape Province for 2016 has increased by 1% to 87.3% after the supplementary examinations. A total of 765 candidates passed the supplementary examinations, while 73 candidates passed their matric after applying for a remark. This means that an additional 838 candidates have now achieved their National Senior Certificate (NSC), Western Cape MEC, Ms Debbie Schäffer, proudly reported.

## Upcoming Events



- 20 May 2017: Second Chance Matric Support Programme Roadshow in Hobhouse, Free State
- 24 May 2017: National Assembly 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 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)



