



**basic education**

Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**THUTO**



## NEWSLETTER

# Minister Angie Motshekga receives Torch of Peace – a beacon of road safety awareness



Now that quality learning and teaching has commenced in all public schools, it is critical to mobilise civil society, parents and community members to unite in promoting road safety in the country. On 17 January 2017, Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, officially received the Torch of Peace from the Minister of Transport, Ms Dipuo Peters, on behalf of the Department of Transport to create awareness on road safety among learners in public schools. The Torch of Peace has been helpful in uniting the nation to strive towards peace, safety and security.

Education around road safety in public schools is a critical undertaking to prevent accident related deaths occurring on South African roads on a daily basis. Minister Peters mentioned that learners need to be educated about the importance of road safety in order to use roads responsibly and called upon parents to educate their children about road safety at home to become vigilant when traveling to and from schools. “We must put more effort into promoting safer communities and safer schools,” said Minister Peters, adding that Government will soon introduce a curriculum on road safety in the education sector to help learners to study the mechanics of a vehicle and to help them to obtain their drivers licence. The curriculum will further equip learners to become good road users.

Addressing the guests, Minister Motshekga acknowledged the importance of the Torch of Peace in South Africa and said that the practice should continue to teach children to respect and value peace in their lives. The Minister requested learners to respect one another and to study hard to become responsible citizens. The Minister also offered her condolences to the parents whose children lost their lives in a motor vehicle accident on the first day of the academic school year in the KwaZulu-Natal Province, saying losing one life is one too many. Minister Motshekga also used the opportunity to address bullying in schools: “We have to collaborate as a nation to strive for safety beyond road safety. Bullying in schools is another aspect that still needs to be addressed since it affects quality learning and teaching in schools,” added the Minister. In conclusion, Minister Motshekga expressed her gratitude to teachers for looking after the safety of all learners, because they are a national asset.

The Torch of Peace will be handed over to the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development during March 2017.

# Minster Motshekga attends *Education Sunday* at Hope Restoration Ministries

Minister Angie Motshekga attended a church service at Hope Restoration Ministries in Kempton Park on 15 January 2017. The service, *Education Sunday*, was aimed at awarding bursaries to three top matric learners who achieved excellent results during the 2016 National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examinations.

Maqhawe Msibi from the Sir Pierre Van Ryneveld High School in Pretoria, received a bursary to the value of R20,000, followed by Sibusiso Msimango from the Eqinisweni Secondary School in Midrand, who received a R15,000 bursary. The third learner to receive a bursary was Pfano Matsheketsheke, also from the Sir Pierre Van Ryneveld High School in Pretoria, who was awarded a R10,000 bursary.

Addressing the congregation, Minister Motshekga called upon South Africans to join the Department in improving quality education in South Africa. The Minister emphasised that learners need to strive to become avid readers in order to perform better. and reminded parents about their responsibility in monitoring their children's academic progress saying, "Learners who are ardent readers are likely to become successful in life; let's work together to support our children".

The Department of Basic Education also utilised the opportunity to showcase and inform community members about the Second Chance Matric Support Programme in order to encourage as many South Africans as possible to complete their NSC qualification.





# Deputy President joins Ministry and Department of Basic Education at the start of the 2017 public school academic year

The first day of the 2017 academic year saw the Deputy President of South Africa, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, the Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga and the Free State MEC for Education, Mr Tate Makgoe, visit Phehellang Secondary School in Parys, located in the Free State Province, on 11 January 2017 as part of the Department of Basic Education's (DBE's) School Readiness Back-To-School oversight and monitoring visits.

"You are the future of South Africa," Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa told learners at the school, which is one of the best performing schools in the country, having achieved a 100% matric pass rate in the last two years. Deputy President Ramaphosa congratulated the principal, teachers, parents and learners for achieving consistently outstanding results and commended Free State Premier, Mr Ace Magashule and MEC for Education, Mr Tate Makgoe, on the excellent performance of the province in the face of significant challenges. The Deputy President added that progress in education was only possible through effective collaboration between all stakeholders.

Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga congratulated the Free State Province on their performance: "We are very proud of what the Province has done; it's the first time that I have witnessed such an achievement since my appointment as the Minister of Basic Education". Minister Motshekga encouraged the learners to work harder and continue to strive towards academic excellence.

MEC Makgoe also expressed his gratitude to Phehellang Secondary School learners, parents, teachers, as well as the principal for making him the proudest MEC in the country. After the visit to Phehellang Secondary School, the delegation visited other schools in the Free State Province to determine whether preparation plans for the start of the new school year have been implemented, and whether any contingency plans have to be made in order to minimise any disruption to learning and teaching during the 201 school days of 2017. Government interventions have led to continuous improvements in our education system as reflected in the steady increase in the overall matric pass rate. Inspired by the *National Development Plan* (NDP) which calls for a joint national initiative to drive efforts to improve learning outcomes in schools, government will convene a *National Development Plan 2030 Back to School Imbizo Week* at the end of February 2017.



# Deputy Minister Surty visits schools in the North West and Gauteng Provinces

On 10 January 2017, the Deputy Minister of Basic Education, Mr Enver Surty and the North West MEC for Education and Sport Development, Mr Sello Lehari, witnessed the first day of the 2017 public school academic year in the Bojanala District in the Ramokokastad Village at the Ramokoka Primary School where a mobile library was handed-over to the school and Early Childhood Development (ECD) learners were afforded an opportunity to showcase their reading skills by reading a few poems to Mr Surty as part of the *Read to Lead Campaign*.

The Deputy Minister and the MEC also visited Manamakgatha and Kwena Klase High Schools in the Bojanala District, where they had a one-on-one engagement session with some of the Grade 12 learners on the lessons learnt during Life Orientation for them to make informed decisions when it comes to choosing their careers and self-discipline during their last year of school and once they have passed their National Senior Certificate exams.

MEC Lehari was overwhelmed that there was a 100 percent attendance by learners and teachers in all the three schools visited as this is proof of the commitment to quality learning and teaching in the Province.

After visiting the North West Province, Deputy Minister Surty was accompanied by the Head of Department (HOD) for the Gauteng Department of Education (GDE), Mr Edward Mosuwe, when he visited Steve Biko High School and Sekampaneng Primary School in Hammanskraal in Gauteng on 11 January 2016. The entourage encouraged learners to strive towards a 100% pass rate for 2017.

The Deputy Minister and Mr Mosuwe also paid an impromptu visit to the Tshwane South admission office where they had an opportunity to engage with the parents and guardians of the learners seeking admission in the 2017 academic year; and also to ensure that all learners were assisted.





# The Director-General for Basic Education visits Xhariep District in the Free State Province

The first day of school for 2017 saw the Director-General of Basic Education, Mr Mathanzima Mveli, officially handing over a mobile library to the Jacobsdal Primary School in the Xhariep Education District in the Free State Province on 11 January 2017. The Director-General remarked that the Department identified the school to receive the mobile library because of its determination and perseverance in helping learners to become avid readers. Mr Mveli commended the school for its efforts in the implementation of the *Read to Lead Campaign* through its various initiatives on reading, including establishing reading corners, spelling programmes and oral activities. “These activities help to lay a solid foundation for all future academic endeavours by our learners” said Mr Mveli.

In his address at the school, Mr Mveli commended the Xhariep District for being identified as the top district in the country and the province for obtaining first position in the 2016 National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations. Ms Busisiwe Tshabalala, Chief Director from the Free State Provincial Education Department, said that: “The secret of success in the province is our understanding that education is a societal issue, hence we mobilise every stakeholder to work with us on all levels. We acknowledge our need of stakeholders with positive interest in education in order to succeed. We also acknowledge that the future belongs to learners; therefore our focus is to ensure that our teachers spend quality time teaching. Quality teaching will enable every child to master all the competencies and skills for a particular year before moving on to the next grade”.

The Director-General was pleased that the school commenced with the core business of teaching and learning on the first day of the new academic year. “Although we are visiting schools in the Free State Province, we are confident that the majority of schools in the country are ready to start with quality learning and teaching this year. By visiting schools, we are assured that the entire schooling system can produce great results nationally.”

Mr Mveli went on to speak about the Department’s plans to strengthen monitoring and support to schools. “We are going to proceed with school monitoring; focusing particularly on the curriculum coverage, to ensure that teachers cover the right topics as stipulated in the Curriculum Assessment Policy Statements (CAPS),” explained Mr Mveli. However, he expressed dissatisfaction that some parents are looking to secure places for their children at schools only in January and said: “The issue of admission needs to be addressed well in advance because it compromises quality time for classroom business.”

In concluding his address, the Director-General emphasised that all education stakeholders, including parents, teachers, school governing bodies and various communities would need to collaborate in order to turn schools into centres of excellence. “Working together as a team will enable us to improve quality education in this country,” said Mr Mveli.

For the full article click on the below link:

<http://www.education.gov.za/ArchivedDocuments/ArchivedArticles/SASchoolSports-Copy.aspx>





# Raising the bar to realise *Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education and the Promotion of Lifelong Learning Opportunities for All*



During the launch of the Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report in 2016, the Chief Director for Curriculum Implementation and Monitoring, Mr Suren Govender, mentioned that, although there has been a significant achievement in terms of improving quality education, more still needs to be done during 2017 to advance towards *Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education and the Promotion of Lifelong Learning Opportunities for All* to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4: *to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all*.

*In pursuit of the above, as well as the attainment of the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (2016-2025) (CESA), and the Sector Priorities, based on the National Development Plan (NDP), Vision 2030 Goals, the Minister for Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga and Deputy Minister for Basic Education, Mr Enver Surty, will be hosting a Basic Education Sector Lekgotla at the Saint George Hotel in Pretoria from 23 to 25 January 2017.*

The objectives of the Lekgotla are, amongst others, the alignment of Basic Education Sector deliverables to the NDP goals; the analysis of the 2016 National Senior Certificate (NSC) results; the *Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study 2015* (TIMSS) results; a focus on subject specific challenges and strategies; and the strengthening of the implementation of Improvement Plans, as well as the interface between national, provincial, district and school levels. The Lekgotla will be attended by MECs and delegates from the various provinces.

## South Korean Volunteer Teachers Arrive in South Africa

On 10 October 2016, the Director-General for Basic Education, Mr Mathanzima Mveli, signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Basic Education (DBE) and the Education Ministry of the South Korean Government through the South Korean National Institute for International Education (NIIED). The agreement stipulates that six volunteer teachers from South Korea are to be placed in two South African schools to teach Mathematics, Physical Sciences and Information and Communications Technology (ICT).

On 21 November 2016 the selected schools, namely Tsako Thabo High School in Mamelodi and Bokgoni Technical High School in Atteridgeville, were visited by the President of the NIIED and his delegation, escorted by the DBE project manager, Mr David Silman. After the school visit, the NIIED President, His Excellency Mr Kim KwangHo, met with Deputy Minister Enver Surty and DBE officials to discuss the arrangement in further detail.

The start of the 2017 academic year has already seen the implementation of the agreement deliverables with the arrival of the teachers in South Africa on 09 January 2017 from Seoul; and a four-day induction programme that took place from 11 to 14 January 2017. The teachers were formally welcomed at the start of the induction programme, where the South Korean Ambassador to South Africa, His Excellency Mr Yeonho-Choi, announced that the South Korean Government would also be donating 100 tablet-based workstations for this project. Deputy Director-General for Curriculum Policy, Support and Monitoring at the Department of Basic Education, Dr Mamiki Maboya, expressed her appreciation for the generous contribution being made by the South Korean Government to the basic education sector.





# Training of Mathematics Subject Advisors in Japan

The partnership between the DBE and the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) culminated in the training of twelve (12) Foundation Phase and Intermediate Phase Subject Advisors from the Eastern Cape and North West provinces from 09 November to 10 December 2016 at Naruto University, Japan. The team successfully completed the *Knowledge Co-Creation Programme (Country Focus) on the Development of Teaching Skills of Teachers in Elementary Arithmetic* under the supervision of the co-ordinator of the Mathematics development programme at Naruto University, Prof Yumiko Ono and Dr David Sekao, Chief Education Specialist from the Department of Basic Education.

The focus of the training included Mathematics curriculum development processes; a focus on the Japanese Education System; Assessment practices in Mathematics; textbook development processes; Lesson Study as a teacher development exercise; and most importantly, the effective teaching and learning practices that account for the outstanding performance in Japanese National Achievement Tests, as well as International Assessments. The workshop included both lectures conducted at the University and school visits to observe how selected Mathematics topics are taught to learners. The JICA training of Subject Advisors came at an opportune time when the DBE is planning quarterly training programmes for teachers in primary schools starting from 2017. All officials who participated in the training programme will be part of a team, which will develop four training manuals for Terms 1 to 4 using the expertise gained from the Japan Education System.

The JICA training preceded the three-day Maths Indaba hosted by Minister Angie Motshekga, held at the DBE in Pretoria from 12 to 14 December 2016. The purpose of the Indaba was to engage and solicit the intellectual views and expertise of reputable Mathematics Education practitioners and researchers to contribute to the conceptualisation of a South African Mathematics Pedagogical Identity.

In her opening remarks, Minister Angie Motshekga said, “We need to use the next three days to contextualise international and regional best practices, and draw lessons for South Africa. We need to reinvigorate the teaching of Mathematics in its entirety – from classroom learning practises, content, teaching, and assessments. We must also pay particular attention to the development of a new curriculum for initial teacher education, induction and continuing professional development. I call for the overhaul of the South African pedagogical-content knowledge outlook. We must develop a South African Pedagogical Content Knowledge Framework as a starting point to develop advanced Mathematical thinking to define the values of South Africa and to apply these to both learning and teaching of Mathematics. Our primary aim should be to demystify the myth that South African learners are not mathematically inclined. Instead, foremost in our minds should be the fact that the study of Mathematics is indeed a prerequisite for tackling poverty and promoting short and long-term economic growth. This is important if not critical to the future of the country.”





# Joint programme to promote teacher professionalisation



The National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT) has entered into collaboration with teacher unions, in an attempt to *inter alia*; find practical solutions to improve the quantity and quality of learning in schools. The first union to finalise the partnership with the NECT is the South African Democratic Teachers Union (SADTU). The first phase of the partnership with SADTU will take place in two districts; Butterworth in the Eastern Cape and Sekhukhune in Limpopo. The collaboration targets 348 primary and secondary schools in the first district and 437 primary and combined schools in the latter area.

The launch of this collaboration took place at the Ester Maleka Comprehensive High School in Marble Hall, Limpopo Province on 18 January 2017.

NECT CEO, Mr Godwin Khosa, explained that the collaboration aims: “To start small with pilots and then gradually take feasible, affordable and sustainable innovations to scale,” according to Khosa the collaboration owes its genesis to a demand from stakeholders in the teaching fraternity for assistance, “In that sense the collaboration is a direct response to demand driven interventions from teachers, SMTs and district officials.”

The initiative will involve a total of 700 teachers, 390 from Limpopo and the balance from the Eastern Cape. The total number includes 160 primary school principals, and aims to also advance the goals of the NDP of 90% of learners mastering at least 50% of the curriculum by 2030 and creating a better balance between unionism and professionalism.

The Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga, expressed her gratitude at the steps being taken by teacher unions in the professionalisation of teaching: “This programme will improve teachers’ subject knowledge, as well as inculcate effective daily teaching routines critical for quality education”.

## Upcoming Events

- 15 January to 22 January 2017: The National Adjudication of the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual NTA will be taking place in the Gauteng Province
- 19 January 2017: Closing day for applications for 2016 NSC Examination paper/s re-mark/re-check
- 19 January 2017: Closing day for applications for NSC Supplementary Examinations
- 23 – 25 January 2017: Minister Angie Motshekga and Deputy Minister Mr Enver Surty will be hosting a National Strategy for Learner Attainment (NSLA) and Basic Education Sector Lekgotla at the Saint George Hotel in Pretoria
- 31 January 2017: Closing date for the submission of public comment to the draft policy on the *Provision of Quality Education and Support and the Learning Programme for Children with Severe to Profound Intellectual Disability*
- 07 April 2017: Closing date for the submission of the 2017 Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secondary Schools Essay Competition entries to the Provincial Education Departments



## 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.