



basic education

Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



## NEWSLETTER

# Inclusive Education and Early Childhood Development receive grants from the European Union

The Teaching and Learning for Early Learning and Inclusive Education Programme was launched by Minister Angie Motshekga on 06 October 2016 under the theme, *Inclusion and Social Justice in Education*, at the DBE in Pretoria. Since 2010, the DBE has been collaborating with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) to develop a framework for teacher training in inclusive education at Initial Teacher Education (ITE) level and also at Continuing Professional Teacher Development (CPTD) level to bring about radical transformation in teacher practice.

The Programme is a collaborative initiative of the European Union, the DBE, the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) and the participating civil society organisations (CSOs). Higher Education Institutions will develop common approaches for teacher education in Inclusive Education and Early Childhood Development. Extensive research will also emerge from the programme, which will strengthen the body of knowledge in these two areas of specialisation. The programme is considered as a valuable opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of integrating Inclusive Education in the ITE curricula of all teachers, as well as the importance of raising the bar with regard to the professionalisation of ECD practitioners. Four consortiums have been awarded grants for a total EU investment of €3,000,000 (R45,000,000). The EU investment totals 80% of the projects' budgets with the CSOs contributing a further 20%.

### **Programme 1: Teaching for All: Mainstreaming Inclusive Education in South Africa**

This programme will aim to improve the attitudes and capacity of pre-service and in-service teachers towards inclusive education, through the integration of newly developed training modules and courses into universities and Provincial Education Departments of South Africa. The project has been designed by, and will be implemented through, a consortium comprising of the British Council, UNISA, the Inclusive Education South Africa and Media in Education Trust (MiET) Africa, with the DBE as an associate partner.

### **Programme 2: Teaching and Learning for Inclusive Education**

Inclusive Education South Africa in partnership with the Flemish Agency for Development Support (VVOB) and the Universities of the North West, the Free State and the Witwatersrand have been awarded funding to support the promotion and training of inclusive education in initial teacher education, induction and the continuous professional development of teachers.

### **Programme 3: Early Childhood Development (ECD)**

The grant for ECD was awarded to UNISA. The overall objective here is to develop and strengthen collaborative and innovative partnerships between Higher Education Institutions, Early Childhood Development CSOs and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges to review, design, develop and pilot teacher education programmes. The partners of the action are UNISA, Bridge Innovation in Learning PTY LTD, Rhodes University and SAIDE.

### **Programme 4: Teacher Development for the Education of Children with Severe and Profound Disabilities**

This project grant was awarded to the University of Cape Town which has a collaborative partner in the Christoffel Blinden Mission (CBM). They will develop a qualification, as well as face-to-face and online training courses for teachers in the areas of Visual Impairment and Intellectual Disability. This training course will be very beneficial for the DBE in view of the fact that there are currently no schools for teacher education that offer specialisation courses in these areas.

Click on the below link for the full article:

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



## National Nutrition Week is celebrated in schools in the Limpopo and Eastern Cape Provinces

The DBE, in partnership with Nestlé South Africa, is celebrating National Nutrition Week (NNW) in the Limpopo and the Eastern Cape Provinces from 09 to 15 October 2016 under the 2016 theme of: *“Love Your Beans - eat dry beans, peas and lentils!”*. This supports the 2016 global United Nations theme of: *“International Year of Pulses: Nutritious Seeds for a Sustainable Future”*. The objective of NNW 2016 is to create awareness about the health and nutritional benefits of eating pulses and soya regularly, as well as to strengthen the promotion of proper handling of food, healthy eating and to encourage physical activities for a healthy lifestyle in school communities.

The Nestlé Healthy Kids programme contributes to the wellbeing of learners by promoting healthy lifestyles and physical education, as well as highlighting education enhancement programmes for learners, teachers and parents. Learners at selected schools participated in the *Young Chef Programme* activities and learnt how to prepare healthy lunch boxes, participated in touch netball, touch soccer, basketball, hula hoops, zumba dance and indigenous games.





# Incremental Introduction of CAPS for Specialisation

Mr Mzwandile Matthews, Head: Monitoring and Evaluation Oversight, attended the Grade 11 training of Subject Advisors and Educators on CAPS specialisation on 30 September 2016. The skills training emphasised skills transfer and improving the practical aspects of specialisation. This is in response to the *National Development Plan* (NDP) directive of improving infrastructure in poor schools and a response to the skills and artisans shortage.

The Eastern Cape Provincial Education Department trained 5,032 educators in skills specialisation during 2016. The DBE intends to train 35,000 educators for the Technical Vocational stream in Education by the end of 2019. The training focusses on Building and Construction, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Automotive, Welding, Fitting and Machining, Woodworking, Welding and Metal Work and Civil Technology and Services. The DBE training team developed the manual to guide Skills Centres on CAPS and to facilitate and monitor the training to ensure policy compliance.

Mr Matthews went on to advise the centres to register as service points focussing on school maintenance and the provision of school furniture. He advised that the centres register as business models and allow learners and teachers to assess practical evaluation and moderation at schools. Mr Matthews also urged the educators to allocate productive time for both practicals and theory within the school timetable to allow for quality learning and teaching. Education is a societal issue and working together we can achieve the outcomes foreseen in response to the *National Development Plan*.



# Heritage Education schools Outreach Programme cultivates a passion for heritage and culture

The DBE, in partnership with the National Heritage Council (NHC), an agency of the Department of Arts and Culture (DAC) and The National Arts Council, hosted the Heritage Education Schools Outreach Programme (HESOP) at the Lesedi Cultural Village in the North West Province from 04 to 07 October 2016. The Programme affords Grade 8 to 11 learners, who are passionate about their heritage, an opportunity to learn more about their tradition and culture as tools of nation building through various activities that promote diverse cultures, history and the values of Ubuntu.

On the first day, 32 learners from 8 provinces made presentations about the 1976 Youth Uprisings and the 1956 Women's March; and the significance of these two historical events on social cohesion in present day South Africa. On the second day, they visited the Cradle of Humankind at the Sterkfontein caves and Maropeng, to learn about the evolution of mankind and fossils. The information they gathered was translated into a presentation on the third day, answering a research question posed to them by a panel of experts. Learners were then required to prove the notion that we are all the same and from the same source by using fossil heritage as examples, considering that *"Human populations appear to be different in terms of colour, body, size, limb proportions, hair texture and other physical attributes."*

Traditional performances were showcased during the gala awards dinner and the CEO of the NHC, Adv Sonwabile Mancotywa, highlighted during his speech that, "this programme seeks to encourage young people who are proud of their South African heritage to conserve it for future generations".

Ms Glodean Thani, from the Social Cohesion and Equity in Education Directorate at the DBE, emphasised that the DBE develops policies that aim to enhance constitutional values; "It was a joy to see these policies implemented through programmes such as the NHC competition that are valuable and enrich the lives of our learners".

James Nxumalo Agricultural High School in the KwaZulu-Natal Province, was awarded first place with a cash prize of R25,000 and a trophy; Harrismith High School in the Free State Province, was awarded second place with a cash prize of R15,000 and a trophy; and Vuyani Mawethu High School in the North West Province, took third place and won a R10,000 cash prize and a trophy. All other participating schools each received cash prizes to the value of R2,000 and recognition of participation certificates were presented to all the learners, as well as their teachers.





# R1 million presented to 2016 Kay Motsepe Schools Cup National Champions

Clapham High School's Soccer Team from Tshwane in the Gauteng Province scooped the R1 million winning prize for their school at the 2016 Kay Motsepe School National Cup finals held at the Soweto Nike Centre on 08 October 2016. Harmony High School from the Free State Province was awarded R600,000 as the second place winners. Lückhoff High School from the Western Cape Province finished in third place and received a prize to the value of R500,000 for their school, whilst Rosina Sedibane High School from the Gauteng Province finished in fourth place and was awarded R400,000.

The Kay Motsepe Schools Cup National Championship is part of a ten year partnership between the DBE and the Motsepe Foundation. This partnership plays a crucial role in nurturing sporting talents whilst encouraging learners to lead a healthy lifestyle. It also plays a pivotal role in improving South African football at school level. Mr Bongani Zondi from the DBE School Enrichment and Sport in Education Directorate said that the tournament was a great success with 18 teams from nine provinces participating.



## Shayamoya shines at the Kay Motsepe Schools National Cup

The National Kay Motsepe Schools Netball Championships, which took place at Hoërskool Florida in the Gauteng Province on 08 October 2016, saw 36 netball teams competing in two streams, namely *Batho* and *Ubuntu*. The *Batho stream* comprises of affluent and better resourced schools (Quintile 4 and 5 schools) and the *Ubuntu stream*, on the other hand, comprises of Quintile 1, 2 and 3 schools that have very limited resources and are mostly located in townships and rural areas.

The Shayamoya Secondary School Netball Team from the Shayamoya Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) Settlement, located in Kokstad in the KwaZulu-Natal Province, participated in the *Batho stream* besides expectations for them to participate in the *Ubuntu stream* due to their locality and limited resources. Throughout the preliminary rounds of the competition, Shayamoya kept their winning record in all matches to make it through to the finals where they faced-off against Afrikaanse Hoër Meisieskool from Pretoria in the Gauteng Province. The girls from Pretoria broke Shayamoya's winning streak to take top honours but both teams were rewarded for their impeccable sportsmanship with the chance to participate in an International Netball Tournament which will be taking place in Singapore during December this year. The winners from the *Ubuntu stream* from Nhlahlayethu High School, located in Nongoma in the KwaZulu-Natal Province, will also be joining the exciting journey to the far east later this year to make South Africa proud.

The 2016 National Kay Motsepe Schools Netball Championships has witnessed for the first time, in the history of South African Schools Netball, where a school from a disadvantaged background has dominated schools from more affluent areas that have access to better sporting facilities, to beat them to second place honours in a national championship.

Speaking at the tournament, Afrikaanse Hoër Meisieskool Netball Coach, Ms Nicole Olivier, said that competitions such as these need to continue to promote school mass participation in sport, targeting girl learners in particular. Shayamoya Secondary School Netball Coach, Mr Andile Mbhele, was excited about the fact that their netball team will be participating and benchmarking themselves internationally.

We wish all three teams the best of luck for Singapore! Make South Africa proud!





# National Primary School Improvement Programme improves teacher capacity

The DBE, in collaboration with the National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT), has launched the National Primary School Improvement Programme, which is aimed at improving the outcomes of literacy, reading and numeracy in Grades R to 6.

One of the key pillars of the Programme is teacher development and support. For this purpose, a programme to improve teacher capacity to teach reading in English at the First Additional Language (FAL) level in Grades 1 to 3 has been developed.

In support of this initiative the DBE will host a two day reading workshop on 20 and 21 October 2016 at the DBE in Pretoria. The main purpose of this workshop will be to finalise the teacher training roll-out plan and English First Additional Language (EFAL) toolkit for the upcoming training of 10,000 Foundation Phase teachers during November and December 2016; and February and March 2017.



# Early Childhood Development Awards – Creating a brighter future for our children

Considering the South African Government's commitment to recognise and support Early Childhood Development (ECD), the South African Early Childhood Development Awards aim to raise awareness of the ECD sector's goal to break the cycle of poverty. The Awards promote and recognise excellence, hard work, dedication and investment in the future of children by individual practitioners, community centres and organisations involved in ECD. The National Development Agency (NDA), an agency of the Department of Social Development, is the custodian of these awards.

The Awards highlight the need for a proper system that considers children's health, nutrition, education, psychosocial and additional environmental factors within the context of their family and their community. The annual ECD Awards initiative, which is the only one of its kind in South Africa, has been taking place since 2003. This has been in partnership with the Departments of Basic Education, Health and Social Development, the South African Congress of Early Childhood Development, UNICEF and the National Development Agency.

***The Awards are presented in the following categories:***

- Best ECD Practitioner of the year;
- Best ECD Centre of the year;
- Best ECD Trainer of the year;
- Best ECD Publication of the year;
- Best ECD Nutrition Programme of the year;
- Best ECD Non-Centre Based Programme of the year; and
- Best ECD Programme supporting Babies and Young Children with Disabilities.

The ECD Award categories promote the improvement of quality of care, protection and development of children; the skills development of caregivers on caring for children and providing them with stimulating environments; as well as the importance of early childhood development. The DBE is a partner of the South African Early Childhood Development Awards, with Ms Octavia Sithole from the ECD Directorate representing the DBE as a National Steering Committee member. Entries/applications for next year's Awards opened on 15 August 2016 and the deadline for submissions is **14 October 2016**. National Award winners stand the chance to receive monetary awards or scholarships.

Click on the below link for additional information:

<http://www.education.gov.za/Home/ECD Awards.aspx>





# UNESCO advocates universal access to information to breach the information gap

The main objective of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) is to contribute to peace and security in the world by promoting collaboration among nations through education, science, culture and communication in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for *the* human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion, by the Charter of the United Nations.

The expansion of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in the education sector therefore took a centre stage during the celebration of the first International Day for the Universal Access to Information, held in Pretoria on 28 September 2016, as a means to breach the information gap in society, with a specific focus on schools in rural areas. The event was co-ordinated by UNESCO through its Communications and Information Sector, in partnership with the Departments of Basic Education, Telecommunications and Postal Services and Government Communication and Information System (GCIS).

A team of Communication and Information stakeholders from various institutions met to exchange ideas on better ways to increase access to information across South Africa. According to UNESCO, access to information is crucial because it helps citizens to fight corruption, participate in democratic processes, access various social and economic rights, access education, develop their own abilities and correct misinformation. The Director-General of UNESCO, Ms Irina Bokova, stated that access to information is a key driver for the realisation of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, aimed at promoting human rights and dignity in order to eradicate poverty and to build inclusive knowledge societies. Ms Bokova also highlighted that equal and universal access to information is a powerful engine for positive change; “This means breaking down all barriers to access, in connectivity, in skills. This is the importance of strong freedom of information laws and their effective implementation.”





# Upcoming Events

- October 2016: Teacher Appreciation Month
- 14 October 2016: DBE and Nestle SA will celebrate National Nutrition Week at Zanengqele Junior Secondary School in Nkondlo village in the Ngcobo District, Eastern Cape Province
- 15 October 2016: A Teacher Appreciation Fun Run will be taking place at Fountains Valley in Pretoria
- 18 – 19 October 2016: The Digital Education Show Africa will be taking place at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg
- 25 October 2016: An information session on the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children campaign will be taking place at the DBE in Pretoria
- 26 October to 29 November 2016: 2016 National Senior Certificate Examinations
- 28 October 2016: World Teachers' Month will culminate in a gala event on 28 October 2016 hosted by SACE at their offices in Centurion
- 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

