



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



NEWSLETTER

Celebrating South African Women

The Department of Basic Education (DBE) celebrated Women's Month and the 60th Anniversary of the Women's Day march to the Union Buildings, in 1956, on 29 August 2016 by inviting iconic South African women to share their stories of resilience and life successes with the ladies that work at the DBE. Special guests included Dr Mamphela Ramphele, Prof Justice Yvonne Mokgoro, Ms Yvonne Chaka Chaka, Ms Abigail Kubeka, as well as the mother, Ms Dorothy Molefi, the sisters, Ms Antoinette Sithole and Ms Sina Molefi and the niece, Ms Nonlanhla Sithole, of Hector Pieterse, the youth who became the iconic image of the 1976 Soweto uprising during Apartheid.

Deputy Minister Enver Surty, who had no problem being the only thorn amongst the roses, saluted the brave women who marched to the Union Buildings in 1956 to protest about the carrying of passes, saying that: "The struggle has to continue to overcome violence and abuse against women". He further expressed his gratitude towards Minister Angie Motshekga, whom he praised for her exemplary leadership and described as a remarkable woman.

Prof Justice Yvonne Mokgoro



Prof Justice Yvonne Mokgoro, a former judge of the Constitutional Court of South Africa, was appointed to the bench in 1994 by former President Nelson Mandela. She also served as chairperson of the South African Law Reform Commission until 2012 and is an honorary professor at a number of universities in South Africa as well as a former board member of the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria. Prof Justice Mokgoro said that the *Preamble* of the *Constitution* of South Africa remains the focal point for discussions during the Women's Month commemorations as "it represents the soul of the citizens of the country". She emphasised the fact that "education is the tool to better one's life" and shared the advice that her mother gave to her to succeed in life: "Do the right thing, every time, all the time".

Dr Mamphela Aletta Ramphele



Dr Mamphela Aletta Ramphele is a South African politician, a medical doctor, an academic and businesswoman. She is a former Vice-Chancellor at the University of Cape Town and a one-time Managing Director at the World Bank. Dr Ramphele, saluted the women and "freedom rights fighters" of 1956 and touched on the disturbing phenomenon of gender-based violence which is rife in the country. She reminded the attendees that "we should be united in our diversity as South Africa belongs to all the people who live in it, black and white; and that we must work together to build a non-racist, non-sexist, non-patriarchal South Africa of which every citizen can be proud of". Dr Ramphele also shared her ideas of what is required for a re-engineered education system. She mentioned the empowerment of our youth and the restructuring of the skills development and training sector as two examples; and added that educators and DBE officials should assist the youth to unleash the genius in every learner to realise the essence of "Ubuntu".

During the vote of thanks, Minister Motshekga appealed to women in authority to "lift others up when you rise to power", saying that women should work together and network to empower and to inspire each other. Minister Motshekga saluted the Pieterse family, in particular and quoted Solomon Mahlangu who said: "My blood will nourish the tree that will bear the fruits of freedom". Minister Motshekga also acknowledged Ms Yvonne Chaka Chaka as a source of inspiration during the difficult years of the freedom struggle as artists are regarded as a special breed of liberation heroes.

Ms Sizakele Mile delivered a touching tribute to courageous women during the function and all the women in education who attended the event left the venue lifted by the words of encouragement.



Minister Motshekga addresses learners during the DBE's 60 Year Commemoration of the 1956 Women's March

Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, met with more than 500 girl learners who serve in various school leadership structures, such as Representative Councils for Learners, in Welkom on 27 August 2016. Mentoring girl learners in leadership positions will play a vital role in strengthening gender equality in society, particularly at school level. The theme for the event was: *The role of the education system in shaping the future of female learners to contribute effectively towards the socio-economic growth of the country*; and was organised to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the 1956 Women's March to the Union Buildings. The ceremony was also utilised as an opportunity to address various social challenges including HIV and AIDS, teenage pregnancy and various forms of gender-based violence, such as sexual harassment, which negatively affects learner attendance and performance.

In her address, Minister Motshekga said that women need to be well equipped to take up leadership positions to change the world for the better. However, the Minister told the girl learners that leadership requires responsibility and accountability. Minister Motshekga further emphasised that, in order to be successful leaders, girl learners should develop a habit of reading; not only for academic purposes, but for general knowledge.

The Minister warned girl learners that the road to success is never easy and encouraged them to work hard and persevere until they reach their targeted goals in life. Minister Motshekga appealed to these future leaders to concentrate on their school work. "Education is key to success and it plays a significant role in the transformation of people's lives. Education serves as the backbone for socio-economic development in this country," concluded the Minister.

Click on the below link for the full article:

[Minister Motshekga addresses learners](#)



Minister Motshekga visits the North West Province Department of Education and Sport Development

Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, accompanied by the Director-General (DG) for Basic Education, Mr Mathanzima Mwel, undertook an oversight visit to the North West Province Department of Education and Sport Development to meet with District Directors, Circuit Managers, Subject Advisors and School Principals at Mmabatho Convention Centre in Mahikeng on 30 August 2016.

These provincial visits are aimed at empowering the Provincial Education Departments to promote quality and efficiency within the schooling system. The Minister also sought to promote uniformity in the sector whilst ensuring that provinces worked towards common goals as stipulated in the *Action Plan to 2019 Towards the Realisation of Schooling 2030*, which is also aligned to the *National Development Plan* (NDP).

The Minister also used the visit as an opportunity to monitor and evaluate the state of the Province's readiness for the end of year examinations; and discuss the monitoring of learner performance in Mathematics and Physical Science, the availability of Learning and Teaching Support Material (LTSM), as well as the status of the National School Nutrition Programme.

Click on the below link for the full article:

[Minister Motshekga visits the North West](#)



Read to Lead on International Literacy Day

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) proclaimed 08 September as International Literacy Day on 17 November 1965 with the aim to highlight the importance of literacy for individuals, communities and societies. On International Literacy Day each year, UNESCO reminds the international community of the importance of literacy and adult learning globally.

As part of International Literacy Day 2016, the DBE, will promote the *Read to Lead Campaign* in South Africa under the theme: *A reading nation is a leading nation*; in collaboration with UNESCO, the Eastern Cape Provincial Department of Education and the Eastern Cape English Educators' Association. The event will take place in Mt Frere on 08 September 2016.



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 to access the nomination form:

[ECD Awards 2016](#)



Safe Parks provide a sanctuary for our children



It is a sad reality that children face daily threats to their safety. To address this in South Africa, UNICEF, in partnership with the Department of Social Development (DSD) and the National Association of Child Care Workers (NACCW), established Safe Parks across the country. A Safe Park is a secure space for children to go to after school and on the weekends where they can do their homework, play sport and engage in learning activities under supervision. Often, the structures in the park are former shipping containers which are appropriately fitted out and colourfully painted.

UNICEF has been a key implementing partner of the 324 Safe Parks, which allows nearly 25,000 children to learn life skills through play, to succeed in their academics and become responsible members of their community regardless of their circumstances. The Safe Parks use the Isibindi Model which was created to support under-resourced communities to take care of children who have been orphaned, often due to HIV/AIDS. UNICEF's main focus within the Isibindi Model is on the social skills development of children, adolescents and youth by providing support where there are gaps in their education and to help empower them to be self-reliant and resilient.

For additional information click on the link: www.unicef.org

Tales Untold - We should all be feminists/womanists by Reitumetse Rapulane from the Educational Enrichment Services Branch



"We salute you women. Although the month of August has passed it is appropriate to pay a continued tribute to the ideals inscribed in our *Constitution* in which the voices of women are indelible.

The *Constitution*, imagined from the perfumed spirit of women in 1956, unique and stylistic, honours each step taken to close the gap between then and now, whilst affirming the historic impact of women's fortitude towards the attainment of democracy. In my understanding of the need for full exploration of the partnership between men and women, I am inclined to the ideal shared in Bell Hook's book called *Feminism is for everybody*, in which she says:

Imagine living in a world where there is no domination, where females and males are not alike or even always equal, but where a vision of mutuality is the ethos shaping our interaction. Imagine living in a world where we can all be who we are, a world of peace and possibility. Feminist revolution alone will not create such a world; we need to end racism, class elitism, imperialism. But it will make it possible for us to be fully self-actualized females and males able to create beloved community, to live together, realizing our dreams of freedom and justice, living the truth that we are all 'created equal'.

The solution to the current and future challenges of sustainable development in South Africa and Africa lies in the successful mobilisation of its entire people, and women in particular. Hence to heal the divisions of the past, we must continue to challenge the false comforts of patriarchy as men and partners, in order to *be fully self-actualised females and males able to create a beloved community, to live together, realising our dreams of freedom and justice and living the truth that we are all 'created equal'.*"

DPSA launches Public Service Month

DPSA calls for nominations

The 4th National Batho Pele Excellence Awards 2016

Closing date: 31 August 2016



#4thnbpea16



the dpsa

Department:
Public Service and Administration
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Batho Pele

Putting People First



We Belong



We Care



We Serve

The Director-General for the Department of Public Service and Administration, Mr Mashwahle Diphofa, together with the Northern Cape Provincial Government, will launch Public Service Month in Kimberley on Friday, 02 September 2016. The launch will set off a series of activities earmarked to celebrate the annual public service programme across the country from 01 to 30 September 2016 under the theme: *Together Moving the Public Service Forward: "We Belong, We Care, We Serve"*. The focus of this year's Public Service Month will be about demonstrating the values of Batho Pele.

During the launch, the Director-General is expected to interact with frontline public servants from all three spheres of Government at service delivery points to assess the status of service delivery and what should be done to enable them to do their work better, faster and smarter in line with the Batho Pele Principles. September month was identified by Government to recognise public servants who follow the Batho Pele Principles, which require them to be polite, open and transparent and to deliver service excellence to the public.

Upcoming Events

- 01 – 22 September 2016: The Provincial Rounds of the Sixth National School Moot Court Competition
- 02 September 2016: ASIDI hand-over of Mhala Primary School, Dutywa, in the Eastern Cape Province
- 03 September 2016: The iNkosi Albert Luthuli Competition Northern Cape Provincial Rounds
- 03 September 2016: The iNkosi Albert Luthuli Competition Western Cape Provincial Rounds
- 08 September 2016: International Literacy Day
- 09 September 2016: ASIDI hand-over of Zamilizwe Primary School, Qumbu, in the Eastern Cape Province
- 09 September 2016: The iNkosi Albert Luthuli Competition Free State Provincial Rounds
- 10 September 2016: The iNkosi Albert Luthuli Competition North West Provincial Rounds
- 21 September 2016: A meeting on Reading Matters will be taking place at the DBE in Pretoria
- 23 September 2016: ASIDI hand-over of Ndakana Primary School, Qumbu, in the Eastern Cape Province
- 24 September 2016: Heritage Day
- October 2016: Teacher Appreciation Month
- 01 – 02 October 2016: iNkosi Albert Luthuli Oral History Programme and Gala Dinner
- 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 – 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
- 10 – 16 December 2016: The South African Schools National Championships (Summer Games) will be taking place at Wits University in Johannesburg