



basic education
Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



NEWSLETTER

Call for submissions on draft Norms and Standards for Focus Schools



Minister Angie Motshekga, in terms of Sections 12(3)(b) of the *South African Schools Act, 1996* (Act No. 84 of 1996), and after consultation with the Council of Education Ministers, invites stakeholder bodies and members of the public to comment on the draft Norms and Standards for Focus Schools. Public schools that provide education with specialised focus on talent, including sport, performing arts or creative arts (also referred to as focus schools) are meant to be innovative centres of teaching and learning excellence that endow learners with specialised skills and competitiveness. These schools should have an advantage of connecting learning with the realities of the world of work while providing opportunities for higher education, and igniting entrepreneurial skills for learners.

Flowing from and consistent with the prevailing education policies, focus schools are required to facilitate the following objectives: improved access to subjects previously not available to all learners and improved quality of performance in these subject areas at grades 10 to 12; enhanced participation and success rates of learners, especially previously disadvantaged learners, at grades 8 to 12 in especially rural areas; expanded numbers of learners who qualify to enter higher education especially from poor families and have opportunities for entrepreneurship; increased production of highly skilled professionals and enhanced innovative capacity of the nation; and empowered people, equipped with scarce skills needed in the marketplace. It is

expected that focus schools are schools of excellence, at the forefront of curriculum development and best practice, with the highest concentration of quality human and material resources and equipment, utilised optimally to benefit the learners and the education system.

Submissions should be directed to the Deputy Director-General: Curriculum Policy, Support and Monitoring, Department of Basic Education for attention: Mr Enoch Mchiza at Fax: 012 328 2128 or E-mail: mchiza.e@dbe.gov.za. The draft Norms and Standards are obtainable on:

<http://www.education.gov.za/Resources/Legislation/CallforComments.aspx>

Deputy Minister meets with Zimbabwean delegation



Basic Education Deputy Minister, Mr Enver Surty, met with the Zimbabwean Deputy Minister for Primary and Secondary Education, Prof Paul Mavima, in Pretoria on 16 May 2016, to share best practices on how school health programmes have been implemented in the country. During the meeting, Deputy Minister Surty outlined that, in order to have an effective integrated school health programme, the DBE works closely with the Department of Health and Social Development. Deputy Minister Surty told the delegation that the funding for the programme occurs at two levels: the South African government allocates resources for the programme and also draw on funds from partners.

The Deputy Minister further informed the delegation about the National School Nutrition Programme, which feeds more than 9 million South African school children with a balanced meal on a daily basis. The Zimbabwean delegation thanked the Deputy Minister for having made time to honour their visit.

Deputy Minister's visit to Msinga

The Deputy Minister, Mr Enver Surty, visited the Msinga area on the outskirts of KwaZulu-Natal on 13 May 2016. The visit was part of a DBE programme in which learners engage in dialogues with themes aligned to the country's most prominent anniversaries. These learner dialogues are part of the DBE's social cohesion programme and was established to conscientise learners about the significant milestones in our democracy that we will be celebrating during 2016. These include the 20 year anniversary of the *Constitution* and the *Bill of Rights*, the 40 year anniversary of the 1976 Soweto Uprising and Africa Month.

This first-of-its-kind dialogue was a cross-quintal dialogue between learners from various schools in the Umzinyathi District hosted at Msinga High School. The theme of the dialogue was: *The 1976 Generation and its reading culture to provide leadership*. The learners were given an opportunity to voice their opinions to the Deputy Minister, Provincial Managers, District Managers, SGB Members, RCL Members, Teachers, Traditional Leaders, Teacher Unions, Principals, Councillors and Mayors.

The learners spoke in depth about the 1976 student uprising and paid tribute to the learners of that generation; the critical issue of rights versus responsibilities; and explained the importance of establishing a reading culture within their community. The learners' dialogues contained not only a wealth of knowledge, but inputs on how this generation can continue to carve out their own path of leadership through reading.

Deputy Minister Surty said that the significance of the first dialogue held at Msinga is not only because the area is rural, but also because the Umzinyathi District is one of the lowest performing districts in KwaZulu-Natal, a province which has the most learners in the country. He was excited about hearing the learners' views on the topic through the dialogue, and took the opportunity to remind all who attended about the role they have to play in improving the District's performance.



Announcement of crowd resourcing initiative to get Vuwani back on track



The National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT), in collaboration with Section 27, Basic Education for All (BEFA), the Helen Suzman Foundation and Kagiso Trust organised a media conference on 18 May 2016 to share details of a joint plan to secure funding and in-kind contributions to support efforts to restore learning and teaching in Vuwani in the Limpopo Province. Within a few hours of making the appeal, the partners have been able to secure a pledge of R 1 000 000 and a donation of 1 000 chairs and tables for

learners. Education and instruction has resumed in some of the schools in the area after a two week period characterised by the disruption of normal activities in 69 schools, and the burning and vandalism of over 20 schools.

Teachers and Social Cohesion Roundtable to promote social cohesion in South African schools

Given the high prevalence of social problems threatening our current democratic state, Government and society is looking to schooling and education to provide the protective barriers and to inculcate in learners the values of responsible citizens, and the principles of human rights and social justice. The Directorate: Social Cohesion and Equity in Education is therefore scheduled to host a Teachers and Social Cohesion Roundtable at the DBE in Pretoria on 24 May 2016. The social dimension and benefits of education are increasingly being recognised as an important contributor in promoting learner wellbeing, national unity and solidarity among the different social groups in the country. This has been further elevated by the *National Development Plan (NDP) 2030* that looks to education to promote social cohesion, constitutional values and nation building.

Teachers are key determinants of the quality of education and play a strategic role in nation building, identity construction, peace and reconciliation; and are fundamental to the success of social cohesion programmes. The Roundtable will focus on the findings of the Centre for International Teacher Education (CITE) research which explored how teachers are supported in their roles as peace builders. The proposed theme for the conference is: *Teachers as agents of social cohesion in South Africa*. The main objectives of the Roundtable are to present research findings, receive feedback from the different stakeholders and to discuss issues around four sub-themes, namely: teacher recruitment, deployment and management; initial teacher education and continuous professional development; national school curriculum and textbooks; and teacher accountability and trust.



Call for schools to register for the 2016 DBE Spelling Bee



The DBE National Spelling Bee Championships, co-ordinated in partnership with the SABC, UNISA (College of Human Sciences, Department of English Studies) and AVBOB Foundation is underway. This year's Championships will be taking place in Pretoria on 01 October 2016. The Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) conducted workshops for registered schools during April 2016 to prepare for the competition. The district competitions will be taking place during June and the provincial competitions during August 2016. All primary schools, including independent schools, with Grades 4 to 6 are invited to

register for participation in the competition. This year, Home Education students are also welcome to enrol in the 2016 National Spelling Bee Championships; and in association with the South African National Council for the Blind, whose network of schools will be developing the Spelling Bee words list into Braille, blind and visually challenged learners will also now be able to take part.

The Spelling Bee is part of the *Read to Lead Campaign* aimed at encouraging learners to read and write well, with the hope of improving the level of literacy in the long term. It is conducted in English, which is the language of learning and teaching of 86% of all learners in the country. The community and all literacy and language activists are requested to adopt and support schools that have registered for the competition in their areas. This support should, through school management, encourage learners who are taking part in the competition to excel and those that have not as yet registered to do so. The 2016 Spelling Bee words and the registration form are also available on the Department's website (www.education.gov.za).

The closing date for the competition is **31 May 2016**. Participation in the competition is free. For further enquiries, please contact Mr PJ Ngoepe in the Sport and Enrichment Directorate on Tel: 012 357 3442 or e-mail: ngoepe.pj@dbe.gov.za.

DBE and partners expand coverage on Information Communication and Technology in schools

The DBE, in partnership with Microsoft, UNICEF, Vodacom and MICT SETA kick-started a three-week Student2Business Internship Training Programme at the Telkom Centre for Learning, in the Gauteng Province on 16 May 2016. The 35 unemployed youth with various computer qualifications have been employed by Microsoft and the DBE to facilitate Microsoft Imagine Academies (MSIAs) at the first 60 (out of 147) District Teacher Development Centres (DTDCs) in the country. The MSIAs have been established to improve learning and teaching with digital technologies in schools and to enhance the digital skills of the youth to become more employable.

The reason for establishing MSIAs at 60 DTDCs was to provide opportunities to enhance the ICT capability and the skills of teachers and officials, as well as the employability skills for youth who are based in communities where DTDCs are located; to make professional, internationally recognised, certified, SACE-accredited digital learning courses and programmes available to teachers, officials and the youth; and to strengthen the partnership between the DBE and Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) responsible for the DTDCs.

Microsoft's Teacher Engagement Manager, Ms Angela Schaerer, acknowledged the DBE for collaborating with its private sector partners and added that the partnership will change the South African learning landscape for the better. "Through this initiative, 400 000 teachers are targeted and will receive training from MSIAs in support of growing 21st century skills. These skills will enable teachers to prepare learners to become critical thinkers and problem-solvers," said Ms Schaerer.

Click on the below link for the full article:

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



Workshop on the allocation of International Standard Book Numbers (ISBNs) for all DBE publications



The Communication Chief Directorate, through the Information Resource Centre (IRC), and the National Library of South Africa (NLSA), hosted a workshop on the allocation of International Standard Book Numbers (ISBNs) for publications at the DBE on 18 May 2016. The purpose of the workshop was to create awareness of the processes and procedures that need to be taken into consideration when Departmental publications are published. According to the *Legal Deposit Act 54 of 1997*, promulgated in 1998, all organisations, government departments, publishers and individuals have a statutory obligation to submit no more than five (5) copies of a published document to the six (6) main libraries of legal deposit throughout South Africa within 14 days after the publication date. It is imperative that published books and documents are deposited to preserve as a national heritage for future generations and a fine of up to R20 000 could be issued to the guilty parties when the Act is contravened. The presentation was conducted by Mr Harry Nkadameng, Legal Deposit Co-ordinator and Ms Magret Kibido, ISBN Official at the National Library of South Africa.

The International Standard Number (ISN) Agency supplies international standard numbers and codes for published documents in various physical formats e.g. ISBN (books and documents), ISSN (newspapers, journals, magazines and periodicals) and **the International Standard Music Number (ISMN)** for the identification for all notated music publications from all over the world. The ISBN is a unique identification number for books, and applies to any monographic publication in printed, non-printed and mixed media formats. Ephemeral material is excluded, as well as unchanged impressions or unchanged reprints of the same title in the same format by the same publisher. Guidance on which products do and don't qualify for an ISBN, and how to apply the number, is provided in the ISBN Users' Manual:

<https://www.isbn-international.org/content/isbn-users-manual>.

You are also welcome to contact Ms Magret Kibido at the NLSA for additional information at: Tel: (012) 401 9718 or Email: magret.kibido@nlsa.ac.za.

Regional Round-up

Gauteng



Fontanus High School in Soweto has been revamped into a “learning facility of the future” with a core focus on subjects such as Engineering, Maths and Science; ICT; and commerce and entrepreneurship. The school, which has been renamed the Curtis Nkondo School of Specialisation, is the first of 27 schools that the Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) is reorganising into specialised facilities that offer technical and vocational content. We believe we need to take education in this province to a higher level, and this is one of our major projects by which we are doing this,” Education MEC, Mr Panyaza Lesufi, said. Located at Emdeni Extension, Curtis Nkondo School of Specialisation will accommodate 390 Grade 8 and 9 learners. This year, the school will only accommodate Grade 8 and 9 learners, with the intention to expand enrolment to Grade 10 learners in the next year, progressing to incorporate other grades as well. A learner’s ability to gain access and understand digital content will depend on the teacher being comfortable with using technology devices in the classroom. MEC Lesufi hopes to change the face of education in township schools, and for this to happen, teachers need to be competent, which is why the Department recruited educators for the school through TEACH South Africa who recruits, trains and places highly skilled and motivated recent university graduates in the classroom.

Upcoming Events

- May 2016: The African continent commemorates Africa Month during May
- 19 May 2016: ASIDI school hand-over of Mountview Secondary School in the Western Cape
- 20 May 2016: ASIDI school hand-over of Kosana Primary School in Dutywa, Eastern Cape
- 24 May 2016: Teachers and Social Cohesion Roundtable at the DBE, Pretoria
- 27 May 2016: ASIDI school hand-over of Nkanti Primary School in the Qumbu District, Eastern Cape
- 31 May 2016: The closing date for entry into the National Spelling Bee Competition
- 03 June 2016: ASIDI school hand-over of Kosana Primary School in Dutywa, Eastern Cape
- 10 June 2016: ASIDI school hand-over of Mawonga Primary School in the Qumbu District, Eastern Cape
- 17 June 2016: ASIDI school hand-over of Mahlathini Junior Secondary School in the Cofimvaba District, Eastern Cape
- 23 June 2016: ASIDI school hand-over of Jenca Primary School in the Qumbu District, Eastern Cape
- 30 June 2015: The closing date for the registration for the Sixth National Moot Court Competition
- 18 July 2016: International Nelson Mandela Day