



basic education
Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



NEWSLETTER

Easter message from the Minister



"I wish those who celebrate Easter well during this break and encourage those who are travelling to do so safely in the hopes that the carnage we see on our roads each year during this holiday time can be avoided.

The first school term of 2016 is already behind us and serves as a testament to how quickly time moves and how little time we have left in the year. Hopefully any hiccups that accompanied the start of the school year are behind us, and we can get down to the hard work waiting for us without wasting any of the precious time we have.

I encourage us to use the little break to reflect on the work ahead of us and return from the Easter holidays refreshed and ready to tackle the challenges that await us in the education sector.

I have visited a number of provinces already this year in a bid to ensure we improve on our education outcomes for the 2016 academic year and I have been encouraged by the hard work that is happening at all levels of the sector.

During our provincial visits we re-established the paramount importance of our "Back to the Basics" approach – the appointment of the right teacher for the right class, teaching the right subject; time

on task – teachers teaching the requisite number of lessons within a predetermined timeframe, managers managing at least in terms of their Operational Plans; and Learning and Teaching Support Material (LTSMs) must have been delivered by the end of the first term.

The Basic Education Budget Vote Debate will take place on 10 May 2016 and will serve as a guideline for the next financial year. I am confident that if we all work together we can achieve what needs to be done to ensure that the apex priority of this government, of delivering quality education to all our learners, can be achieved.

Happy Easter and thank you!"

Basic Education hands over the Torch of Peace to the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development on Human Rights Day

Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga, officially handed over the Torch of Peace to the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development Minister, Mr Tshililo Masutha, during the Human Rights Day Commemoration at Moses Mabhida Stadium in Durban on 21 March 2016. The Torch had been handed over to the DBE by the Department of Transport earlier this year. Minister Motshekga thanked Government for having initiated the Torch of Peace campaign, saying that it has played a crucial role in creating safer schools in the country. The Torch of Peace is a Government-led campaign that rallies communities to act against violence, xenophobia and racism. It is a call to action and is used as a symbol of hope; reflecting Government's resolve to instil a strong sense of humanity, to preserve lives and to eliminate violence and all forms of crime.

Each government department uses the Torch of Peace to highlight their efforts in dealing with safety issues such as road safety, physical safety and the prevention of gender-based violence. This year, the central message is: *South Africans fighting against racism and all its forms*. It is Government's call to encourage communities to work together in eliminating all forms of violence. Each Department is therefore requested to carry the baton of promoting the campaign to ensure that the message of hope, peace and cohesion is endorsed.

President Jacob Zuma delivered the keynote address during the Human Rights Day celebrations, calling for South Africans to work together to fight racism in the country. "We must remove vestiges of racism in the workplace, in the education system, the health sector, in the administration of justice, in access to government services and in the private sector. We are aware of the fact that Government cannot legislate against racist beliefs and prejudice. Solutions will require the consciousness and willingness of those who harbour such harmful beliefs to educate themselves about human rights and equality," said the President. President Zuma also emphasised that there is a need to educate school children and the youth about a non-racial society. "Government has begun programmes of promoting patriotism and a national identity amongst our children. Symbols such as the national anthem, the national flag and the preamble to the *Constitution* are being promoted in schools," concluded the President.



The human rights of learners to be upheld in the classroom



Minister Motshekga warns that there shall be no mercy for any teacher who dabbles in violent conduct in the classroom: "I am disappointed that the practice still continues although corporal punishment has been outlawed in our schools. There is no single teacher or principal who has not been informed that corporal punishment is expressly forbidden. This sad practice led to the Congress of South African Students (COSAS) to make a call for all learners to retaliate in the face of corporal punishment. The call was taken seriously and engagements were held with various stakeholders and teachers on alternative forms of discipline."

In terms of our legislative framework in the basic education sector, corporal punishment is expressly prohibited. Both the *National Education Policy Act (1996)* and the *South African Schools Act (1996)* stipulate that "No person shall administer corporal punishment or

subject a student to psychological or physical abuse at any educational institution." The *South African Schools Act* goes even further and criminalises the practice. It states that "Any person who (practices corporate punishment) is guilty of an offense, and is liable on conviction, to a sentence which could be imposed for assault." These two pieces of legislation that outlaws corporal punishment have even passed the constitutional muster. In April 2000, the Constitutional Court heard the arguments in a case of CESA versus the State. The court ruled that corporal punishment is unconstitutional and a violation of the *Bill of Rights*. It stated that, the prohibition of corporal punishment is part and parcel of a national programme to transform the education system and to bring it into line with the letter and spirit of the *Constitution*.

Minister Motshekga made a fresh call to all teachers to refrain from any form of corporal punishment at all times. Law enforcement agencies are also requested to ensure that cases involving corporal punishment meted against learners be prioritised.

<http://www.education.gov.za/Newsroom/OpinionPieces/tabid/609/ctl/Details/mid/1909/ItemID/3676/Default.aspx>

National Imbizo Focus Week - promoting participatory democracy and dialogue

The fourth National Imbizo Focus Week of this Administration is planned for 04 to 10 April 2016 under the theme: *Together we move South Africa forward: Grow South Africa*. The focus week is set to coincide with the Parliamentary Constituency Week and the commemoration of Freedom Month. Izimbizos are two-way unmediated, direct and interactive information sharing platforms. They are vehicles for dialogue between Government and the people, and are a vital part of a participatory democracy. In line with this approach, Cabinet resolved that Members of the Executive would undertake a minimum of ten outreach programmes and specifically Izimbizos with the public per year.

During National Imbizo Focus Week members of the administration from all three spheres of government will speak to various communities and individuals about pronouncements made by President Jacob Zuma during the State of the Nation Address. This will include progress updates on the implementation of the Nine-Point Plan, which is a key intervention to stimulate economic growth and create much-needed jobs. The Focus Week will further serve as a platform to profile tangible infrastructure development programmes which are meant to stimulate growth. A resilient and fast-growing economy is at the heart of South Africa's radical economic transformation agenda and the National Development Plan.



Let's unite to stop Tuberculosis on World TB Day

Annual World Tuberculosis (TB) Day on 24 March is aimed at building public awareness that TB remains a global epidemic, causing the deaths of nearly one-and-a-half million people each year, mostly in developing countries. World TB Day is an opportunity for people everywhere to join this fight by helping to educate others about TB and by urging communities, governments, civil society organisations, healthcare providers, and international partners to unite and take forward innovative approaches to ensure that everyone suffering from TB has access to diagnosis, treatment and cure.

South Africa is one of the countries with the highest burden of TB, with the World Health Organisation (WHO) statistics giving an estimated incidence of 500 000 cases of active TB in 2011. About 1% of the population of about 50 million people develops active TB disease each year. This is the third highest incidence of any country after India and China, and the incidence has increased by 400% over the past 15 years. Out of the 500 000 incident cases in South Africa, it is estimated that about 330 000 (66%) people have both HIV and TB infections. The DBE is guided by the *National Strategic Plan on HIV, STIs and TB 2012 – 2016*, as well as our own *Integrated Strategy on HIV, STIs and TB (2012-2016)* in calling for "Zero TB infections, Zero TB Deaths, Zero Stigma and Discrimination: I am Kicking TB in My Lifetime". Let's all move forward and support this mission

Senior Managers to disclose their financial interests for the 2015/16 disclosure period



All Senior Managers (SMS members) in the public service are required to disclose their financial interests on an annual basis as required by Chapter 3 of the *Public Service Regulations*. The Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) developed a web-based system to enable Senior Managers to submit their financial disclosure forms electronically via the eDisclosure system. All SMS members within national and provincial departments are therefore encouraged to use this system when they submit their financial disclosure forms for the 2015/16 disclosure period and to register on the eDisclosure website to declare their interests from 01 to 30 April 2016.

To log in, register or disclose interests, visit: <https://edisclosure.gov.za> and visit the eDisclosure Resource Centre for details on eDisclosure at: <http://www.dpsa.gov.za/edisclosure.php>

Call for Expression of Interest to conduct an Output to Purpose Review



The National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT) seeks to appoint an appropriate service provider to conduct an output to purpose review of its strategic direction and programmatic activities since its inception, as well as an Output to Purpose Review (OPR) of its programmes. The purpose of the OPR is to determine the progress that the NECT has made towards achieving its goals and objectives.

The NECT is a public benefit partnership organisation involving Government, business, labour and civil society. The aim of the NECT is to contribute to the implementation of the National

Development Plan (NDP). The NECT was established on the basis of a proposal in the NDP to establish a national initiative involving a coalition of stakeholders to drive efforts for improving learning outcomes in schools, starting with the worst performing schools. Interested organisations are invited to attend a compulsory briefing session that will be held on Friday, 08 April 2016. The interested organisations should submit expressions of interest (EOI), including their capability statements to zethum@nect.org.za no later than Friday, 01 April 2016. The venue and time of the briefing will be communicated to organisations that submitted EOIs. Click [here](#) to download a detailed Terms of Reference of the OPR. Queries may be directed to Ms Zethu Mhlongo via the indicated email address.

Regional Round-up

Western Cape



The Western Cape Department of Education intends to provide pupils with the necessary tools to confront bullies without feeling they need to resort to violence; and to instil a mindset that the strong can walk away without lashing out. Western Cape Education Department spokesperson, Ms Jessica Shelper, said that "Learners are given incentives for displaying sociable behaviour and for promoting anti-bullying strategies in society."

The JAG Foundation's BullyProof campaign, which aims to uplift children in disadvantaged communities, is run at 14 Bonteheuwel Primary Schools and plans are in the pipeline to expand the campaign to between 10 and 15 schools outside the area. JAG presents its programme to 11 000 children annually. They also give cyberbullying talks at high schools, teacher training sessions, presentations at parent's evenings and workshops for special needs pupils. According to its website it uses "sport and play as a catalyst for change, exposing children in disadvantaged communities to an alternate life path". The organisation also coaches rugby, cycling and running. Barry Clarke, JAG's operations manager, said the BullyProof and sports programmes reinforced each other's goals.

Upcoming Events

- 24 March 2016: The commemoration of Annual World Tuberculosis (TB) Day
- 01 April 2016: Ministerial Excellence in Education Awards, including the District and School Excellence Awards, as well as the NSNP Awards at the Presidential Guesthouse in Pretoria
- 08 April 2016: Minister Motshekga to host Rural Education Roundtable at the DBE in Pretoria