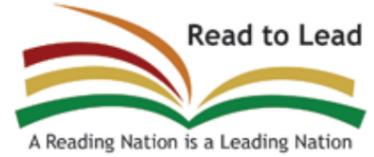




basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



NEWSLETTER

Basic Education Minister convenes 1st Early Childhood Development Roundtable Discussions

Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, together with various education role players, gathered at the DBE in Pretoria on 25 April 2016, for the Early Childhood Development (ECD) Roundtable Discussions. The event was held under the theme: *The consolidation of gains made in ECD towards meeting the goals of the National Development Plan (NPD)*. The ECD Roundtable Discussions offered a valuable platform for engaging with other government departments, ECD and parents' organisations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), civil society, donor organisations and other agencies; on the content and aims of the integrated plan with a view to obtaining greater buy-in into its implementation.

The recruitment of young qualified teachers in ECD; policy review in terms of children's school going age; the strengthening of the ECD curriculum; and increasing access to ECD for learners with physical, sensory intellectual and neurological disabilities took centre stage during the ECD Roundtable Discussions.

Addressing key education stakeholders, Minister Motshekga said that "we believe that through laying solid foundations in the lives of our young citizens, we will ensure that history will judge us in a positive way". Some of the gains that Government has made since 1994 to improve the access to quality ECD for the poorest and vulnerable children in the country, include: increased access to ECD provisioning and in particular the introduction of an additional year in the schooling sector, Grade R; good, comprehensive legislation and policies to create a conducive environment for the optimal development of the youngest citizens; high quality curriculum for children of all ages; parents, caregivers and educators to know what children should know and do from birth to school-leaving age in Grade 12; high level qualifications for previously unqualified practitioners and clear career pathing; increased budgets to lift the burden from poor families for the education and development of their children; and sustainable partnerships with international and national agencies, civil society, religious organisations, independent providers and communities.

Click on the below link for the full article:

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



Sixth National Schools Moot Court Competition is underway



The DBE, in partnership with the Department of Justice and Correctional Services, the Universities of Pretoria, Venda and the Western Cape, the Foundation for Human Rights and the Law Society of South Africa, will be hosting the 6th National Schools Moot Court Competition for high schools in 2016. All Grade 8 to 11 secondary school learners are invited to enter as teams of two; and to prepare an essay on a fictional Constitutional Court case as both applicants and respondents to the case.

Since its inception in 2011, the National Schools Moot Competition has managed to explore various sections of the Bill of Rights such as rights, equality, freedom of expression and human dignity. It offers a platform for young people to experiment with the actual application of the country's supreme law. Most importantly, this Moot Court exercise is not only about the law, but the founding values that underpins the country's Constitutional Law. The teams have to use the 2016 hypothetical problem statement to write their essays and battle it out at the provincial rounds, the semi-finals and the national finals, through the reinforcement by the intricate constitutional matters around freedom of expression. The case study tests the extent to which racism and hate speech find expression within the Constitutional Court as part of a paradigm shift amongst the youth and the entire society for nation building and unity.

As part of preparing the learners adequately for the 6th National Schools Moot Competition, workshops will be conducted in collaboration with the University of Pretoria, private law firms, the Department of Justice and Correctional Services, the South African Legal Aid Board and the Foundation for Human Rights across the various provinces. The provincial rounds will be hosted from 01 to 22 September 2016 with the national finals taking place from 05 to 08 October 2016

DBE and French Embassy join hands to uplift South African schooling

Basic Education Director-General, Mr Mathanzima Mveli and the Ambassador of France, Her Excellency Elisabeth Barbier, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for collaboration at the DBE in Pretoria on 25 April 2016. The DBE and the French Embassy entered into an agreement to strengthen the implementation of the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) and French language training in South African schools.

The partnership will benefit from cultural co-operation in the form of workshop demonstrations by French and South African chefs, called So Chef, in identified schools. This initiative is in line with nutrition education which is a key pillar of the NSNP and was proposed by the Institute of France in South Africa (IFAS). Through this partnership the French chefs will be visiting the identified South African schools to guide learners on various ways to prepare healthy meals.

The French Embassy joined the DBE to support and celebrate National Nutrition Week during October 2015, under the theme: Eating Healthy at School. As part of the co-operation, culinary workshops conducted by three Chefs from France and Belgium were organised in four secondary schools offering Home Economics as subjects in Bloemfontein, Durban, Johannesburg and Pretoria.

Click on the below link for the full article:

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



The DBE and the Flemish Association for Development Co-operation and Technical Assistance (VVOB) sign Letter of Intent

The DBE and the Flemish Association for Development Co-operation and Technical Assistance (VVOB) signed a Letter of Intent for the next five years (2017-2021) on 20 April 2016 at the DBE in Pretoria. This Letter of Intent was signed to further their co-operation with South Africa as the Service Level Agreement (2014-2016) between the two countries on Teaching for Improved Learning Outcomes in Primary Education in South Africa (TILOPESA) recently came to an end. The latter agreement was signed on 23 May 2014 and it promoted teacher development and the establishment of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). On 15 February 2016, the DBE and VVOB had a consultative meeting to discuss the details of the proposed programme, especially the expansion of the programme to other provinces. The Letter of Intent (2017-2021) proposes a programme that will run for five years; and which aims at improving primary education outcomes and further developing the capacity of teachers both as teachers and as leaders in schools.



UNESCO Post General Conference Stakeholders' meeting

The 38th Session of the UNESCO General Conference was held in Paris, France from 03 to 18 November 2015. The Constitution of the South African National Commission for UNESCO specifies that the Commission should convene a National Conference every two years; and not more than four months after the General Conference of UNESCO for the purpose of receiving the report of the Chairperson of the Commission; and to discuss the activities of UNESCO; brief participants on the resolutions of the General Conference of UNESCO; and to plan Commission activities for the period leading up to the next General Conference of UNESCO.

The National Commission Secretariat is therefore planning a national Post General Conference Stakeholders' meeting to take place on 29 April 2016, at the Department of Science and Technology in Pretoria. The meeting will be attended by representatives of stakeholders in Education, Science, Culture and Communication, including the Commission's Cooperating Organisations associated with the Commission. One of the main items on the agenda of the meeting will be 15-minute presentations by members of the South African Delegation to the 38th Session of the UNESCO General Conference. Each delegate will deliver a presentation on the deliberations in the commissions that they attended, highlighting the Draft Resolutions adopted, and their implications for South Africa, within the context of the Government's priorities in Education, Science, Culture and Communication. The delegates will also be expected to make recommendations for improving South Africa's future participation in the General Conference.



Islamic Republic of Iran Cultural Counsellor makes a courtesy call to the South African National Commission for UNESCO Secretariat

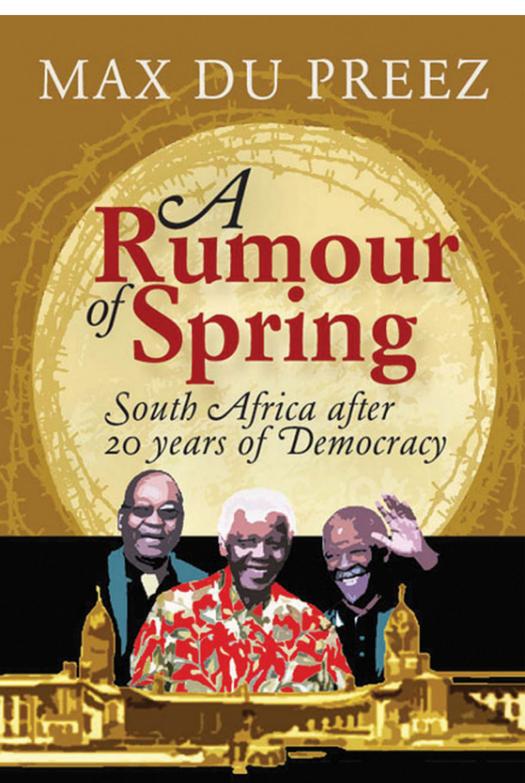


The South African National Commission for UNESCO Secretariat recently hosted a delegation from the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, led by the Cultural Counsellor, Mr Shahrouz Falahatpisheh. South Africa and Iran share historical bilateral relations and the latter supported the South African liberation movement during the struggle against oppression. Iran severed official relations with South Africa in 1979 and imposed a trade boycott in protest against the country's apartheid policies. However, in January 1994, Iran lifted all trade and economic sanctions against South Africa and diplomatic relations were re-established on 10 May 1994.

The Iranian Embassy would like to see the two countries' National Commissions for UNESCO collaborating on the implementation of UNESCO objectives. The joint observance and celebration of UNESCO's international days, by the National Commission and the Embassy was identified as an immediate possible collaboration activity.

Information Resource Centre Review

In this month's Information Resource Centre (IRC) Review we celebrate Freedom Month as we look at the following books:



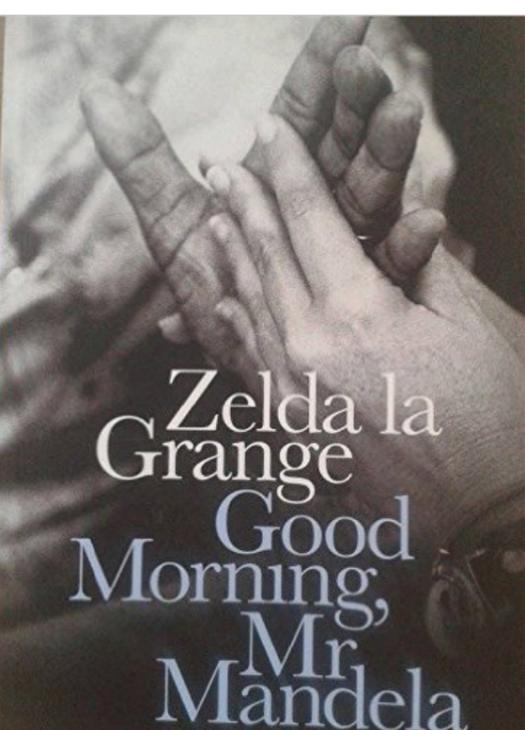
A Rumour of Spring: South Africa after 20 Years of Democracy

Author: Du Preez, Max

Dewey number: 320.968 DUP

Reviewed by: Lydia Mmakwena Molefe

Democracy in South Africa turned 20 on 27 April 2014. In *A Rumour of Spring: South Africa after 20 Years of Democracy*, Max du Preez investigates and analyses the progress and the lack of progress the country has made during that time. He considers the state of the ANC and the opposition, social cohesion and race, the media, the judiciary, civil society, the economy, poverty and unemployment, land, education, health, and South Africa's standing in the world. An honest and balanced account, the book tackles the questions asked by ordinary South Africans every day: How are we really doing? What is happening in our country? The book is highly readable, accessible and entertaining – written in the style that has made Du Preez so popular. It takes a balanced approach, looking at the good, the bad and the ugly, and explores South Africa on several levels, from the leaders in Government to ordinary people on the ground.



Good morning, Mr Mandela

Author: La Grange, Z

Dewey number: 920 LAG

Reviewed by: Lydia Mmakwena Molefe

If you admire Mandela - the man and the hero - who changed the South African political landscape and was honoured all over the world as a beacon of hope and freedom, this book will show you how he was able to change any person with his charm, intelligence and wisdom. They say behind a great man there is always a woman; but Mandela had Mrs Graça Machel and Zelda La Grange as his support structure. We learn from La Grange's book the reason why Mandela chose her as his personal assistant and how he demonstrated his leadership style. La Grange changed her opinion of black people due to the friendship and character of this remarkable man. She tells a story we all need to read to understand that peace comes through trust and respect for our neighbours, whoever they may be.

Brand LAIKI launched as part of World Book Day celebrations

Brand LAIKI was created to house South Africa's first official Urban Edutainer, acknowledged by the President, as well as the Minister of Basic Education. The purpose of this brand is to amalgamate education and entertainment in order to create an interest in books and reading for all South Africans in support of the Read to Lead Campaign. This initiative was launched on 23 April 2016 at the Nelson Mandela Square in Sandton, Johannesburg. This event coincided with World Book Day.

World Book and Copyright Day is celebrated annually on 23 April. In 1995, the UNESCO General Conference, held in Paris, declared April 23 World Book Day to pay tribute to books and authors, encouraging everyone, and in particular young people, to discover the pleasure of reading, through the World Book and Copyright Day, and the UNESCO Prize for Children's and Young People's Literature in the Service of Tolerance.

The World Book Day national celebrations in South Africa are co-ordinated by The Centre for the Book, an Outreach Unit of the National Library of South Africa, mandated to promote a culture of reading, writing and publishing in all local languages, and easy access to books for all. The Minister of Basic Education's Read to Lead Campaign supports the objectives of World Book and Copyright Day in raising awareness about the importance of reading; increasing accessibility to books in school communities; calling on all South Africans to take care of their reading and library facilities; and encouraging everyone to read.

Regional Round-up

Gauteng



The Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) is satisfied with the progress made with the new Online Learner Application System. Since the system launched, over 370,000 applications have been processed, exceeding the GDE's expected 300,000 in a period of a week. This is an average of over 53,000 applications per day. The online application period for Grades 1 and 8 will close at midnight on 01 June 2016. There are over 2 000 public schools across Gauteng. The three education districts that recorded the highest number of applicants were Tshwane South with 49,354 applications, Johannesburg East with 37,720 and Ekurhuleni North with 35,828. A meeting with all principals in the province will be convened on 03 May 2016 to allow principals to share their concerns with the process, and to better understand and address challenges within the system. The placement of learners will commence from 24 June until 25 July 2016.

Upcoming Events

- 06 April – 10 May 2016: Physical Education Month
- 29 April 2016: UNESCO to host post General Conference Stakeholders' meeting at the DBE in Pretoria
- 29 April 2016: ASIDI school hand-over of Upper Tobotshana Primary School in Butterworth, Eastern Cape
- 29 April 2016: Launch of the Literacy Campaign in support of the Read to Lead Campaign, the 1000 Schools Library Campaign and Mandela Day in Khayelitsha, Western Cape
- 06 May 2016: ASIDI school hand-over of Mhlabuvelile Primary School in Mbizana, Eastern Cape
- 10 May 2016: Attempt to set the world record for the most people star jumping simultaneously at multiple venues for two consecutive minutes during Physical Education Month
- 10 May 2016: Basic Education Budget Vote Debate in the National Assembly, Parliament Precinct, Cape Town
- 12 May 2016: Basic Education Budget Vote Debate in the National Council of Provinces, Parliament Precinct, Cape Town
- 13 May 2016: ASIDI school hand-over of Siyanda Primary School in Butterworth, Eastern Cape
- 20 May 2016: ASIDI school hand-over of Kosana Primary School in Dutywa, Eastern Cape

