


NEWSLETTER

Minister Motshekga to deliver the 2016/2017 Budget Vote


Basic Education Budget Vote Debate



10 May 2016

National Assembly, Parliament

14:00





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The 2016/2017 Budget Vote Debate is scheduled to take place on 10 May 2016 in the National Assembly in Cape Town when Minister Angie Motshekga will address Parliament on the Department's strategic and spending priorities for the 2016/2017 financial year, whilst reflecting on the mandates and projects completed during the previous year.

The Minister will also be presenting the Basic Education Budget Vote in the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) on 12 May 2016. The NCOP is constitutionally mandated to ensure that provincial interests are taken into account in the national sphere of government. This is done through participation in the national legislative process and by providing a national forum for consideration of issues affecting provinces.

Minister Motshekga launches Literacy Campaign with Grow Learning in Khayelitsha



Minister Angie Motshekga delivered a keynote address at the launch of a literacy campaign aimed at supporting the Minister's Read to Lead Campaign. This intervention, launched at the Masiphumelele Primary School in Khayelitsha on 29 April 2016, is the result of a joint partnership between the Department of Basic Education and an early childhood development firm, the Grow Learning Company; and the Western Cape Education Department (WCED).

Minister Motshekga emphasised the importance of reading and made a passionate plea for South Africans to make reading a part of their culture. The Minister was very impressed by the demonstration she was given on how the interactive read to lead packs work and the fun way that learners are able to learn to read and talk with confidence. She added that "this is particularly important as we, as the DBE, are strengthening our ECD education".

Click on the link to read the full article: <http://www.education.gov.za/ArchivedDocuments/ArchivedArticles/MinisterMotshekgalaunchesLiteracyCampaignwithGrowLearninginKhayelitsha.aspx>

Outcomes of the Rural Education Roundtable Discussions will improve rural education

The DBE's newly established Rural Education Directorate expects to see progress in rural schools in terms of improved quality education. This and other important outcomes emanated after the Rural Education Roundtable Discussions that were conducted by the various commissions at the DBE in Pretoria on 04 April 2016.

Referring to the outcomes of the various commissions, the Director for the Rural Education Directorate, Dr Phumzile Langa, said that effective and efficient education for children in rural areas can only be attained if all stakeholders put their shoulders to the wheel. "Rural education used to be associated with deficiency and inequality; and bringing heads together will jointly ensure solutions and suggestions that will maximise quality and efficiency in the education sector. Radical action and implementation is necessary to enhance rural education. Contextualising rural learning to speak to the needs of the communities, community involvement and sharing the good stories about rural education was listed as some of the ways to improve rural education.

Dr Langa further stated that the challenges and strategies for improvement cited in the deliberations should serve as a guideline from which the Department's priority list should be drawn up in line with Government's main concerns. "There are great inequalities between rural and urban schools and a dedicated focus on rural schools should reconcile the disparities that exist in the provisioning of education in these areas." One of the topic areas of discussions was the impact that existing policies and regulations have on rural schools and strategies that can be used going forward. There was a strong recommendation for a review of existing education policies for the purpose of strengthening and developing policies and regulations that are tailor-made for rural schools.

Click on the link to read the full article:<http://www.education.gov.za/ArchivedDocuments/ArchivedArticles/OutcomesoftheRuralEducationRoundtableDiscussions.aspx>



ASIDI continues infrastructure delivery with the official hand-over of Upper Tobotshana Primary School



Upper Tobotshana Primary School, located outside the town of Butterworth in the Eastern Cape, came alive with the sound of ululation and song as Mquma Local Municipality Mayor, Mr Baba Ganjana and Chief Bikitsha jointly received the R16 million primary school, which is part of 139 schools completed to date and handed-over to the community as part of the ASIDI Programme.

Equipped with 37 rain water harvesting tanks, an Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centre, a library, 5 classrooms and a fully resourced science lab, the school is set to change the fabric of the community. The children are fed daily in a spacious nutrition centre. Standing in for the MEC for Education in the Eastern Cape Mquma Local Municipality Mayor, Mr Ganjana took time to remind the community of its responsibility saying, “We are all custodians of this school: parents, community members, learners, education officials and community leadership. It is

our responsibility to ensure that the future of our children is nurtured within this environment”. ASIDI schools stand as a commitment made by the DBE to the restoration of rural education; and the promise of the Constitution that “every child has the right to basic education”.

ASIDI continues to deliver sustainable change to communities in the Eastern Cape and will, during the month of May, deliver a further three schools to communities in Mbizana, Butterworth and iDutywa.

UNESCO hosts Post General Conference Stakeholders' Meeting

The South African National Commission for UNESCO held a stakeholder report back meeting at the Department of Science and Technology, in Brummeria, Pretoria on 29 April 2016. More than ten UNESCO government departments were represented at the meeting, to receive a report on the outcomes of the 38th Session of the UNESCO General Conference held in Paris, France from 03 to 18 November 2015. Stakeholders in Education, Science, Culture and Communication, including the Commission's Co-operating Organisations associated with the Commission, also attended the meeting. Each delegate delivered 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 Government's priorities in Education, Science, Culture and Communication.

The National Commission's Secretary-General, Mr Carlton Mukwevho, indicated that South Africa was overwhelmingly voted into the UNESCO Executive by the 196 Member States at last year's General Conference in Paris, and the country will therefore have to work hard for the next four years to represent the interests of the continent. He further indicated that the Commission is expected to facilitate the planning, execution and evaluation of UNESCO activities in South Africa. More broadly the Commission, in collaboration with relevant national departments, should actively participate in UNESCO's activities pursued at sub-regional, regional and inter-regional levels.

The National Commission has a holistic mandate to facilitate the implementation of UNESCO programmes in education, natural science, culture, social and human sciences, and communication; co-operation on national UNESCO issues among national departments; the adherence to UNESCO's ethical standards especially with regard to peace and human rights; encourage the application of UNESCO standard-setting instruments to support the redress of social disadvantage; providing communication channels between South Africa, UNESCO and other National Commissions; and to participate actively in the affairs of UNESCO. Mr Mukwevho indicated that National Commissions for UNESCO are strong vehicles through which the organisation co-ordinates the sharing of best practises among Member States in its fields of competence. He also acknowledged the strong support the National Commission receives from the Minister, the Deputy Minister, the Director-General, and the Deputy Director-General responsible, Mr Paddy Padayachee.



South African National Commission for UNESCO Secretariat hosts learners for their Job Shadowing Experience



As part of Life Orientation, Yeshiva College Girls' High School expects their learners to visit companies or government departments for their job shadowing experience. It was for this reason that the National Commission for UNESCO hosted Ariella Lazarus and Jessica Goldblatt on 20 April 2016. The purpose of the job shadowing experience is to allow students to explore a specific career of interest by observing an employee perform their work duties at their place of employment. The experience provided the learners with realistic career information that will aid them in making their career choices. The learners were overjoyed when the Secretary-General of the National Commission for UNESCO, Mr Carlton Mukwevho, informed them that plans have been made for them to greet Minister Angie Motshekga, to round off their visit to the DBE.

May is Africa Month

Arts and Culture Minister, Nathi Mthethwa, has encouraged South Africans to participate in Africa Month activities to build a better Africa. Speaking during the launch of the Africa Month programme for May, Minister Mthethwa said that the month is aimed at pursuing an Africa that will occupy its rightful place in the world through achieving the objectives of *Agenda 2063*.

This month also marks the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the African World Heritage Fund, which strives to conserve and protect Africa's natural and cultural heritage. A seminar took place from 03 to 04 May 2016 under the theme: *African World Heritage - Thinking Ahead* at the Cradle of Humankind in Gauteng. The seminar focused on heritage conservation and development initiatives, enhancing the role of communities in heritage preservation and addressing matters of world heritage in post conflict regions.

All government departments will be celebrating Africa Month within their sectors under the banner of their various projects and priority areas.

Regional Round-up



BETTER TOGETHER.

The Western Cape Department of Education will investigate a claim that pupils at a school in the province are being harassed by teachers who promise better marks in exchange for dates, said Jessica Shelver, spokesperson for Education MEC Debbie Schäfer. A group of high school pupils told Justice Minister, Michael Masutha, that teachers were having unethical relations with pupils and failing learners who would not date them. He explained that the burden of proof lay

with the accuser, so to prove their claims; pupils should record incidents or film them. Shelver said she had already made inquiries with district officials and would provide more information.

Upcoming Events

- 06 April – 10 May 2016: Physical Education Month
- 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
- 25 May - 01 June 2016: Senior Certificate examinations
- 31 May 2016: The closing date for entry into the National Spelling Bee Competition
- 30 June 2015: The closing date for the registration for the Sixth National Moot Court Competition

