



**basic education**  
Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**THUTO**



## NEWSLETTER

# Basic Education Budget Vote Speech for the 2016/2017 Financial Year tabled in Parliament

Minister Angie Motshekga delivered the 2016/2017 Basic Education Budget Vote in the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces, Parliament, on 10 and 12 May 2016 respectively, outlining how the Department delivered on key strategic objectives and highlighting plans for committing resources to key programmes and focus areas, including expenditure and budget allocations for the 2016/17 financial year.

This year, the Basic Education Budget Vote has seen an increase of budget allocation in various programmes in the basic education sector. The 2015 MTEF overall budget for the DBE was *R21,511 billion*. The overall budget allocation for the 2016 MTEF period before the reduction of the baseline increased by 4.7% from the 2015 MTEF allocation to *R22,528 billion*. With the baseline reduction and the reprioritisation of the 2016 MTEF allocation, the resulting 2016 MTEF allocation for the Department of Basic Education is *R22,270 billion* – an increase of 3.5% from the 2015 MTEF allocation. In 2015/16, *Administration* was allocated *R357,7 million*, which in 2016/17 increased by 5.6% to *R377,9 million*. The allocations for *Administration* in the 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years are estimated at *R396,6 million* and *R418,6 million*, respectively.

The Minister reminded Parliament that basic education is a concurrent function and an apex priority in Government. As a result, it has been necessary to realign functional areas, institutional structures, as well as plans and programmes to more explicitly reflect those of the national sphere in the basic education sector, whilst ensuring that the provincial functions in the different detailed provincial programmes and plans are in alignment with national priorities. The *National Development Plan: Our Vision 2030* and the *Action Plan to 2019: Towards the Realisation of Schooling 2030* will continue to guide the basic education sector in its work.

The 2016 MTEF period will be marked by a consolidation of our work, and on guiding and deepening the work done at classroom, school and district levels, through monitoring and supportive action of Provincial Education Departments, and the actions of the Department at national level. Together with partners, the focus will continue to be on getting learning and teaching in classrooms right, whether this is in terms of the foundational skills, subject content knowledge or teaching context and practice. We must all build a nation in which reading, social cohesion, engagement and collective responsibility coexist; and in which communities respect the rule of law, and own their role in developing our education system. Minister Motshekga proceeded with her speech, referring to the various visible effects of the massive investments Government has made in the last few years, and that can be felt throughout the system, particularly in the classroom:

Click on the below link to read for the full Budget Vote Speech:

<http://www.education.gov.za/Newsroom/Speeches/tabid/950/ctl/Details/mid/3816/ItemID/3987/Default.aspx>





# Minister Motshekga's overview of progress in the schooling system



Prior to the Basic Education Budget Vote Debate, Minister Motshekga hosted a media briefing aimed at outlining the plans and priorities of the sector over the 2016 MTEF period. Minister Motshekga said that there had been significant progress in terms of improving quality education in the country. The *2002 – 2014 General Household Survey* conducted by Statistics South Africa and research conducted in the DBE shows that the Department made progress in securing universal access, retention and participation rates in our public schooling system.

Participation of the 0 to 4 year-old children in Early Childhood Development (ECD) facilities has increased from 7.5% in 2002 to 48.3% in 2014. There has been an increase in Grade R participation by 5 year-olds from about 40% in 2002 to 87.2% in 2014. Participation by 5 year-old learners with disabilities in our educational institutions has increased from 80.4% in 2009 to 83.9% in 2014. Participation by 7 to 15 year-old learners with disabilities in our educational institutions has increased from 77.8% in 2009 to 93.4% in 2014. Primary education participation by 7 to 13 year-olds is nearing universal standards. Participation in compulsory education by 7 to 15 year-olds has increased from 97.8% in 2005 to 99% in 2014. Participation in secondary education (Further Education and Training Band) by 14 to 18 year-olds has increased from 88.3% in 2002 to 90.7% in 2014; however the participation of the 16 to 18 year-old learners with disabilities in secondary schooling has decreased from 61.4% in 2005 to 54.1% in 2014. The percentage of 15 to 24 year-old youth who have completed Grade 9 and above has increased from 63.4% in 2002 to 78% in 2014," Minister Motshekga said.

It is evident that much has been done to improve the quality of access to basic education; however, more needs to be done to move our schools towards inclusion and equity.

## Rebuilding our Limpopo schools

Minister Angie Motshekga said, ahead of tabling the Basic Education Budget Vote in Parliament, that Government will pool together funds to rebuild schools that were burnt down in Vuwani, Limpopo. Twenty schools were burnt down, while four were damaged; tribal offices, a satellite police station, and a Post Office were also torched during a violent week-long protest in and around Vuwani, in the Vhembe district. The Minister also announced that, although the DBE had been allocated a R22,528 billion budget for 2016, the money to rebuild the schools would not come from the Department alone. Discussions with National Treasury were still underway and the municipality was requested to declare the situation as a disaster.

Minister Motshekga reaffirmed the right of all South Africans to legitimate and peaceful protest, but reminded citizens that no amount of legitimate grievance or disaffection warrants the destruction of public or private property. South Africans must always be guided by the principle that the rights of any citizen are always balanced by responsibility and accountability. The right of access to basic education is limitless and unqualified. Despite the fact that the preliminary cost to reconstruct the schools completely gutted by fire, has been estimated at R720 million, the infringement on the right to basic education for the children of Vuwani, and the irreplaceable files and data destroyed at those schools, cannot be quantified into rands and cents; it is simply devastating and unacceptable to the extreme.

The Minister mentioned that it costs about R30 million to build a school. She added that some schools which were close in proximity to each other will have to be merged. The Minister also expressed her concern with the time lost for learning with only 221 teaching days left for the curriculum to be completed saying, "I don't know when schooling will start. As the sector we have been meeting with officials to say as soon as things stabilise the plan is to plough back what we've lost in terms of time and how are we going to recover". However, whilst Minister Motshekga is concerned about stability in the area, she described the Vhembe district as being one of the most resilient areas in the basic education sector. "Despite its rurality and its high levels of poverty, Vuwani holds itself well among the other *well to do* districts. I'm not very concerned about our ability to bounce back, my concern is on stability returning as soon as possible," Minister Motshekga said.



## Campaign is launched to protect and empower girls

The Department of Health (DoH) is launching a campaign that focuses on protecting girls and young women from the many social ills that affect their health and overall wellbeing. The three-year campaign will address HIV infection and pregnancy. The campaign's efforts will also be directed at the men who are part of this social problem. Health Minister, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, announced the R3 billion campaign during his department's 2016/17 Budget Vote Debate on 10 May 2016 in Parliament. The campaign is made possible by funding from PEPFAR (United States President's Emergency Plan for Aids Relief), the Global Fund, the German Development Agency and government departments, and will be launched during June 2016.

Young women who face the highest risk are those in the 15-24 age groups. The campaign will have five objectives: decreasing infections in girls and young women; decreasing teenage pregnancy; decreasing sexual and gender-based violence; keeping girls in school until matric; and increasing economic opportunities for young women. Along with the DBE, the DoH has already screened 500 000 school children for physical barriers to learning, and administered the HPV (human papilloma virus) vaccine to 600 000 school girls.



## Accelerating broadband access for the education sector

In his Budget Vote Debate, the Deputy Minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services, Prof Hlengiwe Mkhize, reflected on some of the issues affecting the education sector: the School Connectivity Programme; the creation of localized ICT Hubs; the improvement of e-literacy (e-Skills); e-enterprise; youth inclusion; the provision of e-government services; and the transformation of the ICT Sector under the theme: *Accelerating Broadband Access for Ordinary Citizens*. "The School Connectivity Programme is a good story to tell. Currently, we have connected a total of 11,528 schools nationally. Of the 11,528 connected schools 3,793 are located in rural areas and 6,223 are in urban areas. The DBE has initiated training modules for teachers on digital literacy. "When we launch the school laboratories, we have been amazed by the number of parents and citizens who attend and express appreciation on behalf of the community," Prof Mkhize said. He also congratulated Gauteng Education MEC, Mr Panyaza Lesufi, for migrating the schools registration process on-line.

With the launch of Operation Phakisa, one of the streams identified is the use of ICTs in education. The School Connectivity Programme talks to the ability to partner with the private sector and stakeholders such as MTN and the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. Prof Mkhize mentioned that the digital revolution is about the five A's, namely: Availability of broadband network, especially in the most remote rural areas; Awareness of the value of being connected without which they simply can't enjoy the benefits of being online; Accessibility of broadband at a national level; Affordability as connectivity without internet access is worthless; and Ability, "as our people must have access to the network infrastructure, as well as access to the data services, hence our bias towards open access networks".





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

A Teachers and Social Cohesion Roundtable is scheduled to take place 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. Given the high prevalence of social problems threatening our current democratic state, Government and society look 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. 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.

The Directorate: Social Cohesion and Equity in Education has focussed on the key elements to promote social cohesion such as school curriculum, textbooks, teacher development, citizenship education, co-curricular and extra-curricular programmes; and language in education or multilingualism. The Directorate has also worked closely with the Curriculum Branch to promote social cohesion through the Nkosi Albert Luthuli Oral History Competition and the Schools Moot Court Programme.

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 Social Cohesion 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 core organisers of the Social Cohesion Roundtable are the DBE, CITE, the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). 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 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.





## Physical Education Month highlights physical education in schools



The DBE and the Physical Education Institute of South Africa (PEISA), in partnership with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Physical Education Symposium from 01 to 02 April 2016 to develop an action plan for ensuring greater access to physical education in South African schools. The annual symposia are central to a series of established physical education advocacy and sector mobilisation campaigns, held as part of the DBE /PEISA annual calendar, including being an integral part of the National Physical Education Month and Physical Education Day celebrations which are observed annually from 06 April to 10 May. The symposia serve as a platform for stakeholders such as educators, researchers, content developers, institutions of higher learning, basic education and sport and recreation partners, officials and other interest groups, to debate, share and advance the interests of physical education.

In observing and celebrating Physical Education Month all schools, including Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centres, participated in curriculum orientated physical activities. **The annual Physical Education Day celebrations were observed on 10 May 2016 with the related activities centred around the #AnythingActiveMinute campaign and the 2 minute star jump challenge.**

## The African continent commemorates Africa Month during May

#africamonth



**BUILDING A BETTER  
AFRICA  
AND A BETTER  
WORLD**

May will be commemorated as Africa Month throughout the African continent. This year's Africa Month will be celebrated under the theme: *Building a Better Africa and a Better World: For Peace and Friendship*. Arts and Culture Minister, Mr Nathi Mthethwa, said that this is a positive step towards achieving the goals of the African Union (AU). The *AU Agenda 2063* is a five decade programme which aims at the integration of the continent, prosperity, peace and stability on the continent. Mthethwa says more needs to be done to ensure that the African continent is appreciated globally.

The Minister mentioned that the programme, which will culminate on 25 May 2016, will include a variety of festivals: The Gcwala Ngamasiko International Cultural Festival, an international multicultural and multidisciplinary festival that brings artists together from around the continent; an African culinary festival will take place in Durban; an indigenous food symposium in Polokwane; an African traditional dance and music festival in Rustenburg; and an African carnival in Port Elizabeth. There will also be a reggae festival, an anti-racism music festival and a film festival in Limpopo. The Amandla musical production will be hosted in Soweto and Emalahleni; and the iKauru Contemporary Art from Africa exhibition will be held in Gauteng.



# National Burn Awareness Week, 06 to 12 May 2016



## NATIONAL BURN AWARENESS WEEK

Burns are a leading cause of death and injury to young children in South Africa. It has been estimated that one fifth of all deaths in children under the age of one year is as a result of burns. According to experts, the numbers of cases among children could be reduced if parents had a greater awareness of burns and what steps they can take to protect their youngsters from such injuries. Burns Awareness Week, which takes place from 06 to 12 May this year, is held annually to create awareness of the important challenge that burns pose in South Africa and to look at how these injuries can be prevented from occurring.

Burns may be caused in a number of different ways including from fire, gas explosions, electricity and chemicals. Hot substances such as boiling water may be especially dangerous for children. Every year thousands of South Africans are burnt by fires that are caused in various ways including knocked over paraffin lamps and candles, cooking accidents (such as fat fires), heaters that have been left on unattended and poorly or incorrectly wired electricity. To protect children parents should be sure to put all hazardous chemicals, lighters and matches out of reach of their little ones. Never leave youngsters unsupervised around heaters, candles, paraffin lamps or open fires including braais. Avoid leaving your bar and gas heaters on when going to sleep as they may set fire to bedding or other inflammable materials.

Childsafe, a campaign of the Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Southern Africa, has a number of additional tips to help parents keep their families safe. Visit their website for more information: [www.childsafe.org.za](http://www.childsafe.org.za)

## Regional Round-up

### KwaZulu-Natal



KwaZulu-Natal's MEC for Education, Ms Peggy Nkonyeni, this week, unveiled the province's Education Improvement Plan to assist both learners and teachers. Nkonyeni highlighted that the Department has implemented a 5 year strategy plan targeting specific areas. She said that the plan will be reviewed occasionally to ensure that the whole department delivers. The main focus of the Education Improvement Plan is the provision of support materials for learners and teachers to the value of R32 million which is to be delivered to all KZN districts. The materials include documents intended to strengthen teaching and learning in primary schools which will lay a foundation for better performance in secondary schools prioritising numeracy and literacy.

## Upcoming Events

- May 2016: The African continent commemorates Africa Month during May
- 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
- 24 May 2016: Teachers and Social Cohesion Roundtable at the DBE, Pretoria
- 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
- 18 July 2016: International Nelson Mandela Day