



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



NEWSLETTER

Six Limpopo schools receive Amalunchbox Kitchens in support of the National School Nutrition Programme



Minister Angie Motshekga officially handed over Amalunchbox Kitchens to six schools in Limpopo on 30 May 2016. The Game Store's Amalunchbox Programme, which is being implemented through a partnership between the DBE and Massmart/Walmart Holdings Limited, is aimed at strengthening and enhancing the standards of hygiene and food safety in schools. The Programme strives to promote and support food safety and kitchen facility standards in line with the general hygiene requirements promulgated by the Department of Health.

More than 211 schools have already benefited from the project since its inception in 2009. Each kitchen is fitted with either a two or three plate gas burner, a double bowl industrial sink with an under-counter cupboard, stainless steel counters, shelving, a serving hatch, two big cooking pots, ladles and tumblers, spoons and bowls.

Speaking at the hand-over ceremony, Minister Motshekga recognised the contribution made by the private sector: "I wish to acknowledge the immense contribution by Massdiscounters/Game for their assistance in the publication, printing and delivery of the first National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) recipe book, *Mnandi 4 Sure*, that was delivered to all Quintile 1 to 3 primary schools and Quintile 1 to 2 secondary schools. With the merger of Massmart/Walmart Holdings in 2012, they pledged and subsequently delivered a donation of 100 mobile kitchens across provinces over and above the Game Amalunchbox Kitchens as part of the 94+ Mandela Project," said Minister Motshekga.

Click on the below link for the full article:

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

Deputy Minister calls upon learners to fight for a non-racist and non-sexist society

On 26 May 2016, Basic Education Deputy Minister, Mr Enver Surty, led a panel of constitutional and human rights compatriots at Freedom Park in Pretoria in commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the South African Constitution. Part of the commemoration was to engage learners on the significant role of the *Constitution* in shaping our democracy and uniting South Africans. The panel consisted of the South African Human Rights Commissioner, Adv Mohamed Shafie Ameerma, the CEO of Freedom Park, Ms Jane Mufamadi and Social Cohesion advocate, Mr Tshepo Mashiane.

Hundreds of learners from various schools attended the event to exchange views on challenges towards the attainment of multicultural diversity and social cohesion. The first session commenced with the hoisting of both the South African and African Union flag, as well as the recital of both anthems in recognition of Africa Month celebrations. The procession continued to the Gallery of Leaders. It is at this heritage site where the historic records of various heroes and heroines, who fought for freedom, are being exhibited.

During the second session, a presentation by the various panellists was followed by interactive engagements with the learners. Deputy Minister Surty outlined the development process of the South African *Constitution*, which involved dedicated and remarkable heroes and heroines of our country.

Click on the below link for the full article:

<http://www.education.gov.za/ArchivedDocuments/DeputyMinistercallsuponlearnerstofightforanon-racistandnon-sexistsociety.aspx>



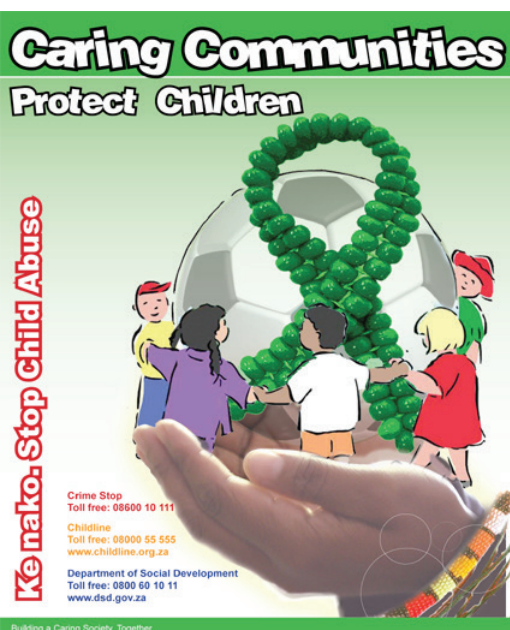
Early Childhood Development is prioritised during Child Protection Month

June is a month in which we as South African's acknowledge the Children and Youth of our country, renew our pledge to protect them and their rights, and celebrate their vibrant energy, innocence, creativity and enquiring minds. On International Children's Day on 01 June 2016, the Oasis Group handed a R4.7 million cheque over to the Centre for Early Childhood Development (CECD) towards the advancement of teacher and caregiver skills, as well as the upgrade and development of early childhood development facilities.

Click on the link below to read the full article:

<http://www.education.gov.za/Newsroom/MediaRelease/tabid/347/ctl/Details/mid/3963/ItemID/3999/Default.aspx>

Child protection and exploitation to take centre stage during 2016 Child Protection Week



Government will embark on the annual Child Protection Week campaign from 29 May to 05 June 2016 under the theme *Let Us All Protect Children to Move South Africa Forward*. The Department of Social Development, as the custodian of *The Children's Act*, officially launched the campaign at Braakspruit Farm, outside Klerksdorp in the North West Province. The DBE's School Safety Directorate will be rolling out the *National School Safety Framework*, which addresses all issues that might threaten the safety of learners in South African schools. The main focus will be on the North West and Mpumalanga Provinces as part of Child Protection Week.

The protection of children is everybody's responsibility and Government alone cannot eradicate this scourge of exploitation and abuse. It is imperative that parents and communities be cognisant of the roles they need to play in protecting children and in exposing any suspected child abuse activities or child exploitation.

Since its inception in 1997, the Child Protection Week programme has and continues to raise awareness, educate and mobilise all sectors of the society to holistically develop, care and protect children. For updates during Child Protection Week, follow @GCISMedia, @SAGovNews, @GovernmentZA, @DsdNews and @The_DSD. Join the conversation on Twitter by using the hashtag #ChildProtection2016. For more information on the list of activities, visit www.gov.za and www.dsd.gov.za

Historic Schools Debates to empower our youth during Youth Month



16 June 2016 marks the 40th anniversary of the Soweto and other related youth uprisings in South Africa. The national Youth Day programme will be officiated by President Jacob Zuma at Orlando Stadium in Soweto. An inter-Ministerial Committee on Youth, co-ordinated by the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), has also been established to organise a successful commemoration campaign during Youth Month, which will be celebrated under the theme: "Youth Moving South Africa Forward".

The DBE, in collaboration with the Department of Arts and Culture and the Historic Schools Restoration Project, will conduct debates and essay competitions on youth activism and the role that was played by historic schools in the liberation struggle.

This will target approximately 55 historic schools across the country. The Historic Schools Restoration Project defines a historic school as a South African secondary school which has formally played a significant role in the formation of our present day nation as these schools were at the core of the uprisings. The Eastern Cape Province has the largest number of these schools (28), followed by KwaZulu-Natal (8), Gauteng (7), the Western Cape (4), the Northern Cape (3), Limpopo (3) the Free State (1) and the North West (1). This programme will run until August 2016.

2nd Assessment Dialogue Session held

A group of education specialists and scholars from the DBE and various institutions of higher learning participated in the 2nd Assessment Dialogue session held at the Department on 27 May 2016. The seminar, which was chaired by Mr Mark Chetty, was conducted to create an enabling environment that harnesses a rich discourse among appointed officials within relevant units in specialised areas of assessment. The Chief Director of National Assessment and Public Examinations, Dr Rufus Poliah, outlined the purpose of the session and welcomed all those who made time to attend the seminar.

The keynote speaker at this seminar was Dr Ramoroka, the Director for Examination and Assessment at the Department of Higher Education and Training. Dr Ramoroka focused his presentation on *Critical Thinking in History Classrooms: a Study of historical thinking and the assessment thereof in South African Classrooms*.

Dr Ramoroka began his presentation by applauding the Department for considering making History a compulsory subject in public schools, but added that the Department will still need to work with schools in ensuring that methods used in teaching history are properly structured. Dr Ramoroka, who conducted a study on History teaching techniques in the South African classroom context, revealed that History teachers did not use primary sources sufficiently. Although group discussions and debates were used in the classroom, along with active participation, learners were not engaged in the construction of historical knowledge. The raw materials of History such as primary sources were ignored by teachers and a textbook was used as an authoritarian text. The study also revealed that teachers failed to engage learners in the reading of primary sources. Dr Ramoroka further emphasised that teachers should teach History using practical resources to make learners analytical and critical thinkers. “Good historians do not just speak about the past; they encourage an active dialogue, and leave us with an informed story.” By using primary documents such as diaries, letters, newspaper accounts and oral interviews, students hear the arguments put forth by historic actors and directly experience the tensions and inner motives which lie at the heart of a given narrative,” explained Dr Ramoroka.

Education stakeholders are encouraged to attend the 3rd Assessment Dialogue to be held at the DBE on 23 June 2016.



Nkanti Primary School brings joy and hope to the community of Qumbu

Nkanti in Qumbu is 80km outside Mthatha in the Eastern Cape. On 27 May 2016, a state-of-the-art Nkanti Primary School was officially handed over to the community. Built at a cost R17 million, Nkanti Primary School forms part of the 161 schools handed over to date as part of the Accelerated School Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (ASIDI) programme. With facilities such as a nutrition centre, a computer laboratory, a science laboratory, a resource centre and a multipurpose centre, the school's 252 learners now have a school to be proud of.

Speaking at the event, Mhlontlo Municipal Mayor, Councillor Giyose, said, "This is the kind of commitment that Government has made to the development of South Africa's learners and the consistent improvement of the Education sector." With a total of 483 schools identified for replacement in their entirety, 939 schools provided with access to sanitation, 932 schools with electricity and a further 1145 schools provided with fresh cleaning water, the ASIDI programme is leaving a legacy of positive change. The ASIDI programme will continue to deliver with the hand-over of Kosana Primary School in iDutywa 02 June 2016.



Tales Untold: The importance of Africa Day by Mrs Maureen Keitumetse Modiba: Chief Education specialist for Social Sciences



2016 marks the 53rd anniversary of Africa Day. This is the day in which 53 member states of the African Union (AU) bring together the continent of Africa to collectively address the challenges it has faced, such as armed conflict, climate change and poverty. The Organisation of African Unity, a forerunner to the AU, was established on 25 May 1963 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, with 32 signatory governments. It was disbanded on 9 July 2002 by its last chairperson and former South African President Thabo Mbeki, and replaced by the AU. Africa Day is observed as a public holiday in some African countries.

Geographically speaking, the African continent has a very striking location in relation to the rest of the world. It is the only continent that is in all four hemispheres and has land on the Prime Meridian and the Equator. The Prime Meridian, also known as the Greenwich Meridian, is an imaginary line that divides the earth into eastern and western hemisphere. On the other hand, the Equator divides the earth into northern and southern hemispheres. No other continent in the world has these exceptional attributes.

This noble continent has a very rich history of ancient empires and kingdoms which, in their time, were both impressive and influential. We owe it to our children to teach them about the immense contributions Africa has made to the modern world. These include Mathematical concepts such as multiplication of fractions and geometric formulas. The oldest known mine on archaeological record is the Lion Cave in Swaziland. Hieroglyphics, an ancient formal writing system was invented in Egypt.

Do we, as Africans know, that there are many medical procedures such as vaccinations, setting of false teeth and broken bones that were performed in ancient Africa long before they were performed in Europe? Africa is home to the first human heart transplant in the world! Unfortunately, many of our achievements are overshadowed by wars, conflict, famine and poverty that are ravaging parts of the continent.

As we celebrate Africa Day, we should strive towards promoting unity, peace and co-operation amongst all Africans, regardless of race, religion, creed and colour. Let us embrace the principles of the Pan African Parliament such as the promotion of peace, security and stability for a better Africa, and impress upon our children that we are a continent of pioneers, inventors and champions. One Africa, One Voice. Peace!

Regional Round-up

Gauteng



An investigation into a Grade 6 test paper that had questions about a Zapiro cartoon of President Jacob Zuma will continue despite the school's apology, said Gauteng MEC for Education Panyaza Lesufi. The private Christian school apologised for the incident after the Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) said that the question had been viewed as insensitive, offensive and distasteful. Lesufi said that the GDE sent a team to analyse the situation at the school. The school has since apologised and said it would refrain from doing such things in the future. Lesufi added that the move is about respecting the education system.

Upcoming Events

- 02 June 2016: ASIDI school hand-over of Kosana Primary School in iDutywa, Eastern Cape
- 10 June 2016: ASIDI school hand-over of Mawonga Primary School in the Qumbu District, Eastern Cape
- 16 June 2016: The 40th anniversary and commemoration of national Youth Day
- 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 2016: Minister meets with District Directors at the DBE, Pretoria
- 30 June 2016: The closing date for registration to take part in the Sixth National Moot Court Competition
- 30 June – 01 July 2016: 2016 ABC Motsepe Schools Eisteddfod
- 18 July 2016: International Nelson Mandela Day
- 09 August 2016: National Women's Day
- October 2016: Teacher Appreciation Month
- 05 October 2016: World Teachers' Day