


basic education

 Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO

NEWSLETTER

Kha Ri Gude stalwarts honoured



On 21 June 2016, Mr Themba Kojana, Deputy Director-General for the Teachers, Education Human Resources and Institutional Development Branch at the DBE, joined by Dr Morongwa Ramarumo, the CEO of Kha Ri Gude, presented awards to Kha Ri Gude stalwarts who spent many years improving adult literacy in the country. The event took place at the OR Tambo Southern Sun Hotel in Gauteng where Mr Edward French, Mr Jabaar Mohammed and Mr Eric Gama were honoured for their sterling work.

Mr Edward French:

Mr Edward French has been involved with adult literacy since the early seventies. During the 16 June 1976 Uprisings, he was busy teaching adult literacy with Ms Emily Mnisi and developing materials for adult education. As an activist of adult literacy, he assisted the former Department of Education in developing adult basic education programmes. As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of Youth Month, Mr French is still devoted to adult literacy programmes. He spent his entire life working in communities; and researching and advising on basic literacy. Together with Prof John Aitchison and Mr Dave Adler, he worked on and assisted with the development of the quality assurance component of the Kha Ri Gude Mass Literacy Campaign. He has also been training the Kha Ri Gude volunteers on verification and moderation of the Learner Assessment Portfolios (LAPs) since 2009.

Mr Jabaar Mohammed:

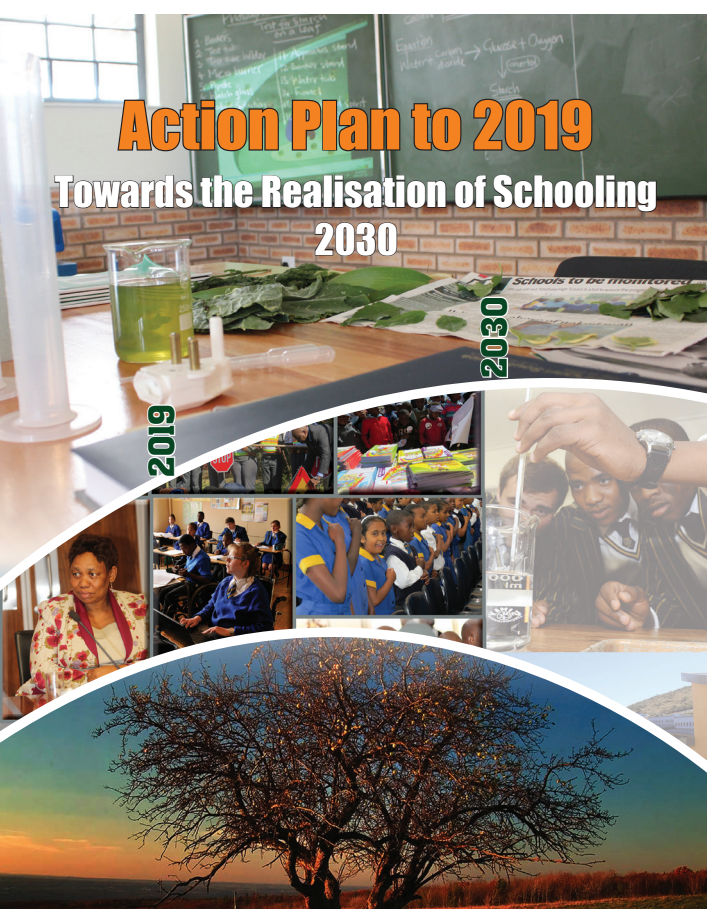
The Kha Ri Gude Mass Literacy Campaign commenced in 2008 with two colleagues driving the campaign in the deaf sector. Mr Jabaar assisted with the training of the deaf in more than one province. He has worked tirelessly in promoting adult literacy among the deaf and has won several awards. The Department could not have reached out to so many deaf people had it not been for Jabaar's experience and expertise in the sector.

Mr Eric Gama:

Mr Gama is a veteran of the Ka Ri Gude Mass Literacy Campaign and has taught the blind sector in various provinces for years. He is a board member of the South African Council for the Blind and has a passion for adult literacy. Mr Gama has also won various awards for his contribution to adult literacy and has been an asset to the DBE in general and the Blind Sector in particular.

Three provinces were also recognised for Kha Ri Gude learner retention in the 2015/2016 Financial Year: Mpumalanga Province took the lead with 91.25%; Limpopo Province followed with 85.5%; and the Western Cape took third place with 82.5%.

Action Plan to 2019: Towards the Realisation of Schooling 2030 - the blueprint for the education sector



The DBE introduced the new sector plan, *Action Plan to 2019: Towards the Realisation of Schooling 2030*, in 2015, in order to channel all goals towards *The National Development Plan (NDP) 2030*. This sector plan is an update of the *Action Plan to 2014: Towards the Realisation of Schooling 2025*. It's a reflection of how far we have come in terms of service delivery, not only in basic education, but in Government as a whole. The sector plan encapsulates responses to the priorities, targets and programmes articulated in the NDP and provides a detailed five year plan and fifteen year targets and programmes for the entire basic education sector.

The new sector plan replaces the *2014 Action Plan*, which detailed programmes the DBE had initiated in the previous cycle; and which were widely consulted on the basic education sector. During the next few years, the DBE will build on its successes in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for access, participation, and gender equity. In the post-2015 period, the emphasis will be on the quality of schooling outcomes and on the preparation of young people for opportunities after they leave school.

The DBE has, to this end, developed three streams of curricula: (Academic, Vocational and Technical); which address the diverse needs of young people for learning and development in our schools. We are working with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) to better influence the quality and preparation of our teachers; and ultimately, our learners, in critical subjects including Mathematics, Science and Technology; and the African Languages.

Young teachers assist to move South Africa forward

Young teachers from the nine provinces, youth and community structures converged at the East Bank Hall in Alexandra on 15 June 2016, to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of 16 June 1976, when students in Soweto protested against the use of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction in all South African schools. The Ministerial Youth Summit held under the theme: “*This is our day*”, which coincided with the National Youth Day theme entitled: *Youth Moving South Africa Forward*, saw hundreds of young people from Alexandra, and surrounding areas, coming together in honour of those young men and women who sacrificed their lives for the right to education.

The South African Council for Educators (SACE) and the DBE led Teacher Appreciation and Support Programme (TASP), invited teachers in each province to submit essays or artwork in line with the commemoration. These teachers were also given an opportunity to discuss their ideas at the event.

In his address, Deputy Director-General, Mr Themba Kojana, addressed delegates on behalf of the Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga. The DDG said that the June 16 Soweto Uprising should remind South Africans about the journey that the country has travelled to freedom. “We salute those who were involved in the June 16, 1976 Soweto Uprising for they have contributed tremendously towards the liberation of our country.” Mr Kojana further stated that since access to basic education has been fully achieved, young people have to dedicate themselves to their school work to pursue careers of their choice in any institution of higher learning. “Education will remain the apex priority and Government will continue to provide resources to improve quality education. South Africans now need to fight against the social ills of alcohol and drug abuse amongst the youth,” he said.

The DDG also reminded the Alexandra community members about the *Read to Lead Campaign*, saying that South Africans need to instil a culture of reading in their households to improve learner performance in school. “Getting our children to read for academic purpose and pleasure is critical in building a leading nation,” remarked Mr Kojana. The DDG urged the youth to form reading clubs to promote reading in their communities.

Click on the below link for the full article:

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



Third Assessment Dialogue Sessions focus on Early Grade Literacy



The third Departmental Assessment Dialogue Session took place on 24 June 2016 at the DBE in Pretoria. Dr Stephen Taylor, Advisor in the Office of the Director-General, made a valued presentation on *Using learning assessments for impact evaluations - The case of Early Grade Literacy*.

The Assessment Dialogue Sessions, initiated by the National Assessment and Public Examinations Chief Directorate, were launched on 20 April 2016 at the DBE in Pretoria. The rationale behind the assessment dialogues is to create an enabling environment that harnesses a rich discourse among appointed officials within relevant units in specialised areas of assessment. It is envisaged that the assessment dialogue forum will expose valuable research findings and stimulate growth of innovative ideas on key indicators pertinent to the Department. The dialogue will focus on assessment themes that will positively contribute to the improvement of examinations and assessment; and address specified issues that are a challenge in the field of assessment. The themes for 2016 will focus on, amongst others, *quality verses quantity: the assessment debate; alignment between curriculum, instruction and assessment; effective teaching and learning through assessments; the art of reporting on learner performance; and standardised testing*.

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 Sixth 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 Sixth 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. The closing date for registration to take part in the Sixth National Moot Court Competition is 30 June 2016.



Workbooks project is on track



The DBE workbooks project, which is used to enhance quality learning and teaching within the schooling system, remains a valuable asset to all public schools. Mr Allan Subban, the Project Director for the workbooks project, highlighted that a lot of work has been done in terms of improving quality learning and teaching through the implementation of the project.

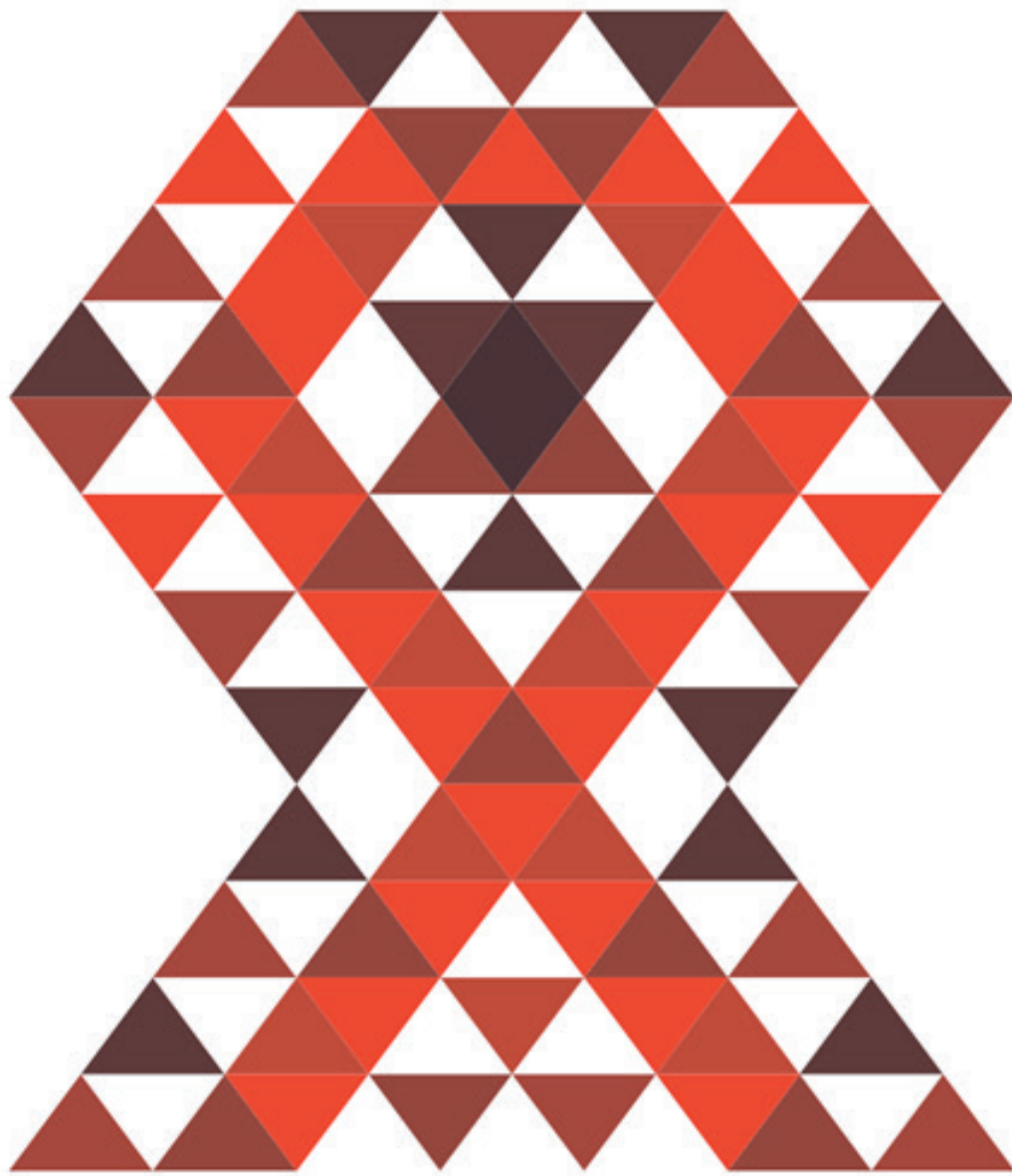
Mr Subban said that the workbooks are an important step in achieving Goal 19 of the *Action Plan to 2019: Towards the Realisation of Schooling 2030*. “In response to a Ministerial directive to address the learning gap in schools, the DBE printed and delivered 13,5 million Grades 1 to 6 Home Languages and Mathematics workbooks to 18,854 public primary schools during 2011. The Grades 1 to 6 Home Language and Grades 1 to 3 Life Skills and Mathematics workbooks are printed in the 11 official languages; while Grades 4 to 9 Mathematics workbooks are printed in English and Afrikaans; and English First Additional Languages for Grades 1 to 6 are also printed,” explained Mr Subban. The Project Director further added that the workbooks have a positive impact on the learner performance, as an improvement in Literacy and Numeracy is evident. For the 2016 academic year, the DBE has distributed 60 million workbooks to learners in the Foundation, Intermediate and Senior Phase. Mr Subban also emphasised that, the DBE

ensures that each school receives the correct quantity of workbooks in the correct language for all targeted subjects on time. Workbooks encourage teachers to raise the standard of education by introducing basic concepts in Mathematics from a very early age.

During the past years, a main challenge has always been receiving accurate data from the provinces to ensure correct delivery of the workbooks. However, independent audit delivery confirms that, since the 2011 academic year, the delivery has improved from 95% to 99.9% in 2016. The DBE has also digitised the workbooks in order to strengthen the use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in schools across the country; in addition to also adapting the workbooks to Braille for blind learners.



DBE to participate in AIDS2016 Conference



AIDS 2016 **21ST INTERNATIONAL** **AIDS CONFERENCE** DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA JULY 18–22, 2016 **WWW.AIDS2016.ORG**

South Africa is ready to host the 21st International AIDS Conference, commonly known as AIDS2016, which will be held from 18 to 22 July 2016 at the Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, under the theme *Access Equity Rights – Now*. Minister in the Presidency for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Mr Jeff Radebe, leads the Inter-Ministerial Committee on AIDS2016, which comprises of 16 Ministers, the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal and the Mayor of eThekweni.

AIDS2016 will be hosted by the International AIDS Society, which is the world's leading independent association of professionals involved in the fight against HIV, with 16,000 members in 170 countries. The International AIDS Conference is the largest conference on any global health or development issue in the world. The world's top scientists, civil society members and policymakers will convene at AIDS2016 to discuss the fight against HIV and AIDS. AIDS2016 will officially open on Nelson Mandela International Day on 18 July 2016. The event will bring together 18,000 conference delegates and attendees and 1,000 journalists representing 180 countries. The conference programme will cover more than 500 sessions, workshops and programme activities.

During the conference, the DBE will participate in a number of activities, such as the Pre-conference Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) Commitment Technical Meeting organised by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in collaboration with the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Eastern African Community (EAC) Secretariat and partners. The Deputy Minister of Basic Education, Mr Enver Surty, the Director-General, Mr Mathanzima Mweliso and the Deputy Director-General for Social Mobilisation and Support Services, Dr Granville Whittle, have been invited to attend the Pre-conference ESA Commitment Technical Meeting which will be held on 18 July 2016. The DBE is participating in the implementation of the ESA Commitment that was affirmed on 07 December 2013.

The DBE will also be part of an exhibition by the South African Government and the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC) and partners to showcase efforts aimed at bringing vital knowledge and interventions to learners, educators, officials and communities in order to prevent and mitigate the spread of new HIV infections; and to exhibit the multi-sectoral response that South Africa has implemented. The Department will disseminate material by the various Directorates at the conference to communicate the range of pro-poor care and support programmes that are currently being implemented by different Branches.

Regional Round-up

Limpopo



The Limpopo Provincial Department of Education says plans are now underway to implement a special camp as part of its catch-up plan for learners in the Vuwani area. Around 2,600 matriculants had missed out on critical preparation for the year-end National Senior Certificate examinations due to the violent community protests during April 2016. In total 52,827 learners have been affected by the unrest, however, what is of vital concern is the approximately 2,600 Grade 12 learners who have already missed weeks of school, as well as their mid-year examinations, which are critical in terms of preparations for the year-end National Senior Certificate examinations. Several schools have remained closed due to ongoing intimidation and threats of further violence, and said they feared that if schooling did not resume soon learners would have to repeat the academic year. Parents and community members are urged to take responsibility for the education of the learners and ensure they go back to school as a matter of urgency. As we head towards the end of Youth Month celebrations honouring those who died on 16 June 1976, the DBE calls on the Vuwani community to remember the sacrifices made by the youth of 1976 to ensure that every child in South Africa has the right to quality basic education.

Upcoming Events

- 23 June 2016: ASIDI school hand-over of Jenca Primary School in the Qumbu District, Eastern Cape
- 24 June 2016: The 3rd Assessment Dialogue to be held at the DBE, Pretoria.
- 28 June – 01 July 2016: ABC Motsepe Schools Eisteddfod
- 29 and 30 June 2016: EduWeek Exhibition at Gallagher Convention Centre in Midrand
- 30 June 2016: The closing date for registration to take part in the Sixth National Moot Court Competition
- 07 July 2016: Minister Angie Motshekga and Deputy Minister Enver Surty will be hosting the Assessment Roundtable as part of the Oliver Tambo Debate Series at the DBE in Pretoria.
- 11 – 14 July 2016: Introduction of DBE, UNICEF, Vodacom and Microsoft *Managing and Leading Education with Digital Technologies* course at the University of Johannesburg
- 18 July 2016: International Nelson Mandela Day
- 18 – 22 July 2016: The AIDS2016 conference will be held at the Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal
- 22 – 24 July 2016: Youth Citizens Action Programme at Roodevallei in Pretoria
- 09 August 2016: National Women's Day
- 25 – 26 August 2016: Minister meets with District Directors at the DBE, Pretoria
- October 2016: Teacher Appreciation Month
- 01 – 02 October 2016: iNkosi Albert Luthuli Oral History Programme and gala dinner
- 03 – 07 October 2016: Heritage Education Schools Outreach Programme in the North West Province
- 05 October 2016: World Teachers' Day