



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



NEWSLETTER

Teacher Centre Managers and e-Learning Specialists trained as digital education ambassadors



Teacher Centre Managers and e-Learning Specialists are being trained to take the lead in the implementation of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in schools. More than 170 participants from across all nine provinces commenced with a blended university-accredited learning Short Learning Programme (SLP) on *Managing and Leading Education Change with Digital Technologies* at the University of Johannesburg, Auckland Park Campus on 11 July 2016. The course was officially launched by the DBE, in partnership with the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), Vodacom and Microsoft.

The face-to-face training, which took place from 11 to 14 July 2016, will be followed by three months of virtual training until the completion of the NQF level 8 Post Graduate Diploma course. This course will empower Teacher Centre Managers and e-Learning Specialists to become experts in the adoption of digital technologies as *tools of the trade* within the education sector.

Through the partnership, the DBE has been systematically growing the competencies of the managers of the District Teacher Development Centres (DTDCs) over the past two years. In August 2014, the DBE and Vodacom trained 159 DTDC managers and Provincial Education Department (PED) officials. In September 2014 and 2015 respectively, the DBE, Vodacom and Microsoft trained 50 e-Learning Specialists from all nine Provincial Education Departments in a South African Council for Educators (SACE) accredited *Teaching with Technology* course. During March and April 2016, Vodacom partnered with the DBE to train more than 300 officials in all PEDs that are involved in managing DTDCs.

Click on the below link to read the full article:

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

Counting Down to the International AIDS Conference 2016:

Government Departments collaborate to address HIV and AIDS in South Africa

Basic Education Deputy Minister, Mr Enver Surty, along with Social Development Deputy Minister, Mrs Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu and Health Deputy Minister, Dr Joseph Phaahla, officially handed over HIV and AIDS quilts to the Deputy Minister of Correctional Services, Mr Thabang Mokoetle, at the Kgosi Mampuru II Management Area in Pretoria on 11 July 2016. This event marked the one week countdown to the start of the 2016 International AIDS Conference, which will be held at the iNkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre Complex in KwaZulu-Natal from 18 to 22 July 2016. It further signified the commitment of both Government and civil society to support the conference and other initiatives to fight the HIV epidemic in the country.

The quilts were made to create awareness around HIV and AIDS across the country and to reflect on the strides made by South Africa in turning the tide of the HIV pandemic. Various government departments and stakeholders, led by the South African National AIDS Council, have participated in the project through making quilts that depict their respective contribution in reducing new HIV infections and deaths related to the disease. These quilts will be displayed at the International AIDS Conference in Durban.

In their address, all the Deputy Ministers acknowledged that the country has made significant progress in ensuring that there is access to treatment for people living with HIV and that “Life expectancy for South African citizens has increased from 57 years in 2009 to 67 years in 2014,” said Deputy Minister Phaahla. To date, South Africa has the largest antiretroviral roll-out programme in the world. In addition, the adoption of the new antiretroviral treatment (ART) guidelines enables those who are tested HIV positive are eligible for treatment regardless of their CD4 count.

Although South Africa recognises its successes, there are still challenges that the country needs to deal with. These include, amongst others, the prevention of new infections among young girls and women between the ages of 15 to 24 years. Evidence shows a rate of more than 2,500 new HIV infections every week, which lead to 90,000 new infections every year. The spread of HIV and AIDS amongst school-going youth is one of the concerning issues that requires urgent attention in order to achieve zero new HIV, STIs and TB infections and zero deaths associated with HIV and TB, as well as zero discrimination by 2030.

Click on the link below to read the full article:

<http://www.education.gov.za/ArchivedDocuments/ArchivedArticles/InternationalAIDSConference2016.aspx>



Experts investigate better ways to enforce play-based learning in all ECD centres

The Director for Early Childhood Development (ECD), Mrs Marie-Louise Samuels, represented the DBE at a three-day Play Conference held at the Aviator Hotel in Kempton Park from 12 to 14 July 2016. Play is vitally important to children's intellectual, physical, social, creative and emotional development as it allows them to explore, discover, negotiate, take risks, create meaning and solve problems, which are the important foundations for developing literacy, numeracy and social skills.

Through the conference, ECD experts were encouraged to explore better ways in which play can be integrated with the ECD curriculum for the holistic development of children at an early age. It is envisaged that the ideas shared during this conference will enable those who run ECD centres to promote activities that enhance learning through play. Experts agreed that communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity are important skills which converge when learning through play.

In her keynote address Dr Yulia Privalova Krieger, Deputy Representative of UNICEF South Africa, stated that play is a fundamental children's right that is safeguarded in the *Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)*, which South Africa ratified on 16 June 1995. "The Committee on the Rights of the Child, in their interpretation of the *CRC* on this right to provide guidance to State Parties, reaffirmed that play is a fundamental and vital dimension of childhood, as well as an essential component of physical, social, cognitive, emotional and spiritual development. The *General Comment no 17 on the Right to Play* indicates that play is linked to, and is essential for ensuring children's full enjoyment of all the other rights in the *Convention*. Play is not only a right, but it is also fundamental to human development, as well as an essential *tool* to ensure that children with disabilities participate fully in an inclusive and rights-respecting society. The *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* is very clear that *children with disabilities have equal access with other children to participation in play, recreation and leisure and sporting activities, including those activities in the school system*," Dr Krieger explained.

In South Africa, policies and a curricula base for learning through play are well established. South Africa's *National Plan of Action for Children 2012 to 2017* recognises the right to play and sets national goals and objectives to be met through the actions of a number of government departments to ensure that this is realised. It is important to collectively commit, through the Play Conference and beyond, to put these policies and plans into action.

Click on the below link to read the full article:

<http://www.education.gov.za/ArchivedDocuments/ArchivedArticles/Play-basedlearning.aspx>



National SA School Sports Championships unearth future sporting talent

The National SA School Sports Championships (Winter Games) took place at the University of KwaZulu-Natal campus in Durban from 10 to 14 July 2016. The sporting codes featured during the Winter Games included chess, football, hockey, rugby, volleyball, tennis and netball, as well as indigenous games such as jukskei and khokho.

The inaugural National SA School Sports Championships were staged in Pretoria in 2012, followed by Bloemfontein in 2013 and Pretoria in 2014 and 2015. These championships are a culmination of the schools league programme where schools compete at an in-school, inter-school, local, district, provincial and ultimately at national level.

These National SA School Sports Championships take place in a three-seasonal format, effective this year: the Autumn Games took place during March and April 2016 (athletics and swimming); the Winter Games during June and July 2016 and the Summer Games will take place during the December school holidays.



Mind the Gap study guides are distributed at Correctional Centre

On 08 July 2016 the Technical Support Unit of the Department of Basic Education (DBE), distributed *Mind the Gap* study guides to juvenile offenders at the Department of Correctional Services' Baviaanspoort Correctional Centre in Roodeplaat, Pretoria. The offenders are able to attend school while they are serving out their sentences for a range of criminal offenses. Classes at the Emthonjeni School facility begin at 08:30 in the morning and end at 12:00 to allow the students to also be part of other skills training programmes and activities such as woodwork and welding.

Addressing the group, the Area Commissioner, Mr Jerry Somaru, expressed his gratitude for the delivery of the *Mind the Gap* study guides and added that "education is liberation" when highlighting the importance of the "second chance learners" completing their schooling.

There are twenty three titles in the *Mind the Gap* series. These include Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematical Literacy, Economics, Geography, Life Sciences and Accounting; there are also nine titles for English First Additional Language (FAL) to support Paper 1: Language in Context and Paper 3: Writing; and seven study guides to support the Literature examination. *Mind the Gap* helps Grade 12 learners obtain good marks in their final year of schooling, which is a watershed achievement for all learners eager to establish their lives out of school.

Click on the below link to read the full article:

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



YCAP is empowering and motivating active learners across the country

Four hundred registered schools, comprising over 4,000 primary and secondary school learners from all nine provinces, have been working hard at solving social, environmental and academic challenges in their schools and communities as part of the Youth Citizens Actions Programme (YCAP). The provincial finalists from the primary and secondary school categories in each province will be showcased at the YCAP National Championships on 23 July 2016 in Pretoria.

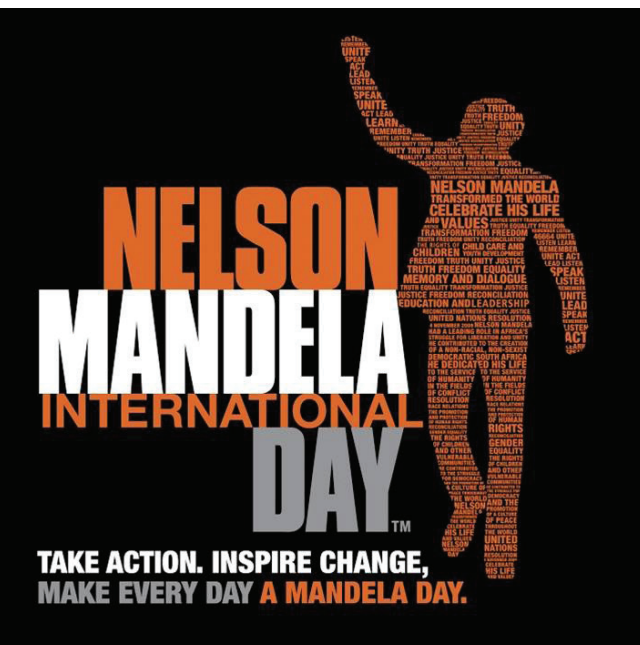
Provincial events took place throughout the country during June and July 2016 as part of the Youth and Mandela Months' activities. The creativity, commitment, hard work and most importantly, impact and sustainability of the projects, have skyrocketed since the first YCAP National Championships were launched seven years ago.

Learners had been provided with YCAP toolkits from Empowervate that showed them how to identify challenges in their schools and communities, ranging from social and academic to environmental issues. They then followed the step-by-step guide which asked them to find creative and innovative solutions to the problem and to implement these actions. Finally, the teams had to review and revise the impact they made on the topic as well as their own personal development through being an active citizen.

The programme is sponsored by the Deutsche Bank South Africa Foundation and DSV SA. Prizes include new tablets and access to an accredited Microsoft Word, Excel and Powerpoint e-learning course for the entire school, sponsored by SpecCon, as well as grant funding for their projects. These are all learners who do not wait for change, but become the change they want to see: active citizenship and youth empowerment in action!



DBE to celebrate Nelson Mandela International Day



Nelson Mandela International Day was launched in 2009 in recognition of former President Nelson Mandela's birthday on 18 July via a unanimous decision of the United Nations' General Assembly. It was inspired by a call Nelson Mandela made a year earlier, for the next generation to take on the burden of leadership in addressing the world's social injustices when he said that "it is in your hands now". Nelson Mandela International Day encourages all global citizens to take responsibility of improving each other's lives and addressing the world's social injustices. It is more than a celebration of Madiba's life and legacy. It is a global movement to honour his life's work and act to change the world for the better.

Some of the focus areas for the month will include food security; education and literacy; shelter and infrastructure; and the environment. The DBE will therefore, this year, be packing food parcels in partnership with the Vodacom Foundation for distribution to various schools on the day; and in collaboration with Nestlé, the Department will be promoting healthy eating and lifestyles amongst learners through the Healthy Kids Programme, which will be taking place at Londolozani Junior

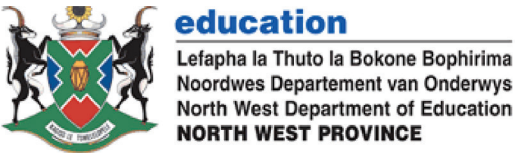
Primary school in Mdantsane in the Eastern Cape Province on 20 July 2016. Four neighbouring primary schools will be joining Londolozani Junior Primary school to participate in the event.

The Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga, will preside over the official hand-over of a library to Tlhasedi Primary School in Hebron in the North West Province on 18 July 2016. The library is being donated to the School by the AVBOB Foundation as part of their partnership with the Department of Basic Education and in support of the Read to Lead Campaign.

"What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead" – Nelson Mandela.

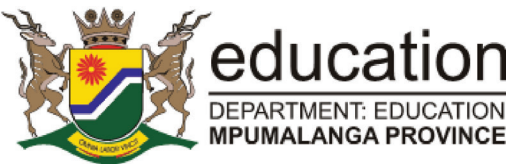
Regional Round-up

North West



North West Provincial MEC for Education and Sport Development, Mr Sello Lehari, will spend Nelson Mandela International Day at Moeka Primary School, his former school in Moretele, north of Pretoria. The MEC recently adopted the school. Together with senior department officials, they will renovate the school and plant a new food garden to benefit the learners.

Mpumalanga



Mpumalanga Provincial MEC for Education, Ms Regina Mhaule, will hand over the new Wilge Primary School to the Emalahleni District Municipality in Mpumalanga as part of the Nelson Mandela International Day celebrations. As part of the build-up the MEC and senior officials will join the Emalahleni community to clean-up and to upgrade the Barberton Secondary School on 15 July 2016.

Gauteng



Gauteng Provincial MEC for Education, Mr Panyaza Lesufi, held a media briefing on 13 July 2016 to provide a report on the progress of the Gauteng learner placement process and online registrations for Grade 1 and 8 learners for the 2017 academic school year. Since the commencement of the placement period on 24 June 2016, the Department has managed to place over 6,534 learners (3,389 Grade 1 and 3,145 Grade 8 learners). The Department intends placing all learners by 07 September 2016.

Upcoming Events

- 14 and 15 July 2016: Kha Ri Gude Ceremonies in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal Province
- 17 July 2016: MTV Shuga Campaign Launch in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal Province
- 18 July 2016: Nelson Mandela International Day
- 18 – 22 July 2016: The 21st International AIDS Conference will be held at the iNkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre Complex in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal
- 18 July 2016: Deputy Minister Enver Surty to attend the Pre-conference ESA Commitment Technical Meeting at the AIDS2016 Conference
- 18 July 2016: Minister Angie Motshekga to preside over the official hand-over of a library to Tlhasedi Primary School in Hebron in the North West Province as part of Nelson Mandela International Day
- 19 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
- 20 July 2016: Presidential visit to Marhulana Primary School in Tembisa in the Gauteng Province
- 21 July 2016: The official hand-over of Sedibeng Special School in the Limpopo Province as part of the ASIDI Programme
- 22 – 24 July 2016: Youth Citizens Action Programme (YCAP) at Roodevallei in Pretoria
- 27 July 2016: The official hand-over of Bungu Primary School in the Eastern Cape Province as part of the ASIDI Programme
- 01 August 2016: The official hand-over of Loding Primary School in Mpumalanga Province as part of the ASIDI Programme
- 09 August 2016: National Women's Day
- 18 August 2016: The iNkosi Albert Luthuli Competition Provincial Rounds will be taking place in the KwaZulu-Natal Province
- 20 August 2016: The iNkosi Albert Luthuli Competition Provincial Rounds will be taking place in the Gauteng Province
- 25 – 26 August 2016: Minister meets with District Directors at the DBE, Pretoria
- 31 August 2016: The iNkosi Albert Luthuli Competition Provincial Rounds will be taking place in the Eastern Cape Province
- 03 September 2016: The iNkosi Albert Luthuli Competition Provincial Rounds will be taking place in the Northern Cape Province
- 03 September 2016: The iNkosi Albert Luthuli Competition Provincial Rounds will be taking place in the Western Cape Province
- 09 September 2016: The iNkosi Albert Luthuli Competition Provincial Rounds will be taking place in the Free State Province
- 10 September 2016: The iNkosi Albert Luthuli Competition Provincial Rounds will be taking place in the North West Province
- 24 September 2016: Heritage Day celebrations
- 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