

"Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world."

— Nelson Mandela



## DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S 2018 PROVINCIAL ENGAGEMENTS

2018 has been declared the year to celebrate the centenary of the first president of South Africa's democracy, Dr Nelson Mandela. The Department of Basic Education has been a privileged recipient of Dr Mandela's great wisdom. His famous saying "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world" continues to define our work in the Department of Basic Education.

In unpacking the above quotation, in the context of the Department's mandate, it becomes clear that if education is to change the world for most South Africans, it has to be of a high quality and relevant to the needs of the country. The Director-General's initiative of engaging key education officials and school principals from the nine provinces is hailed as an important game changer in motivating, supporting and giving oversight to provinces, districts and schools. These 30 engagements scheduled for the first half of the year, is geared towards improving learning outcomes that will ultimately offer learners the opportunity to change their life chances through securing good passes in Grade 12, entering higher education and other training institutions and thereby improve their employability. Education is truly that weapon to bring about change.

The Thuto will carry news of the Director-General's visits to the provinces. You may access the articles through the following link <https://www.education.gov.za/Home/DGProvincialEngagements2018.aspx>

"Do not judge me by my successes, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back"

Nelson Mandela

"Everyone can rise above their circumstances and achieve success if they are dedicated"

Nelson Mandela

"When people are determined they can overcome anything."

Nelson Mandela



**basic education**

Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

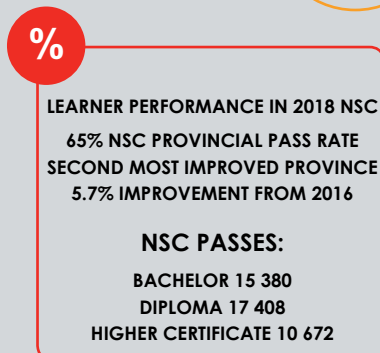
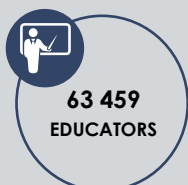


# FAST FACTS

## EASTERN CAPE HAS 12 EDUCATION DISTRICTS:

Alfred Nzo East	Joe Gqabi
Alfred Nzo West	NMMB
Amathole East	OR Tambo Coastal
Amathole West	OR Tambo Inland
BCM	Sarah Baartman
Chris Hani East	
Chris Hani West	

## IN 2017 THE EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE HAD:



# PROVINCIAL ENGAGEMENT IN THE EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

## (PART 2)



Eastern Cape's senior provincial and district officials, including school principals, honoured a special invitation made by the Director-General for the Department of Basic Education (DBE), Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, who is currently on the provincial engagements to engage education officials in the country. The purpose of these engagements is to identify possible ways to improve learning outcomes, especially in the critical subjects such as Mathematics, Physical Science and Accounting.

Mr Mveli who met various groups of education experts in several parts of the province, commenced his provincial engagements in Grahamstown on 13 February 2018 and visited East London on 15 February 2018 followed by another meeting at Cofimvaba on 16 February 2018. The last provincial engagement was hosted in Mthatha on 19 February 2018. Approximately 5886 officials, comprising chief directors, district directors, circuit managers, curriculum managers and school principals attended the engagements in the Eastern Cape Province.

The engagements have become one of the most reliable mechanisms to monitor the work done by provinces in terms of effective implementation of the government policies towards improving quality education across all nine provinces and to share information on the gains that have been achieved by the system. During his visits, Mr Mveli called upon provincial officials to aim at achieving access, redress, quality, efficiency and equity to offer quality education in public schools.

"District directors, circuit managers, subject advisors and school principals are agents of change therefore they need to be empowered to understand the targets and goals set out in the *Action Plan to 2019: Towards the Realisation of Schooling 2030*", Mr Mveli added.

Stating the purpose of the engagements, Mr Mveli said, "We are gathered here today to share key issues that were discussed during the Basic Education Sector Lekgotla so that officials at national, provincial, district, circuit and school levels could share a common understanding of the targets and goals we have set for the sector. This will ensure that there is synergy in the system. Provincial engagements will enable us to learn from each other whilst identifying workable models that can be used to support schools to function optimally". Mr Mveli commended the province for the 5,7% improvement in the National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations.

"The important aspects that we need to strengthen are time management, learner discipline and the quality of teaching and learning. Teachers should spend quality time teaching to complete the curriculum appropriately," said Mr Mveli, addressing school principals.

## EASTERN CAPE 2018 ENGAGEMENT IN GRAHAMSTOWN

As always, the DBE is utilising these provincial engagements as an opportunity to strengthen its link with key education officials to ensure consistency within the education sector. During an interactive session, school principals pleaded with the Department to provide support in the area of teacher recruitment, particularly for Mathematics and Physical Science.

The Manager for the Administration, Certification and Data Processing, Mr Hilton Visagie, stated that the provincial engagements allow the DBE to share the status of learner performance in the province based on the outcome of the 2017 NSC Examinations and Progress in International Literacy Study (PIRLS). "This kind of information will help your province to identify lessons learnt from PIRLS and make necessary recommendations for improvement," remarked Mr Visagie.

In addressing the drop in the number of learners that wrote the NSC examinations, Mr Visagie said: "Our mandate now is to identify the reason why these learners did not write the NSC examinations to avoid losing more learners in future," he added.

"The province will also need to divert their energies and resources in improving language competency in the lower grades to prepare learners for the Senior Phases. Our teachers still need to be groomed to teach reading in the lower grades. The province has potential to improve; what we need to do is to infuse the right teaching methods in the early years of children's schooling," highlighted Mr Visagie.

Ms Florence Modipa, the Chief Education Specialist for Curriculum Policy, made a presentation on Improving Assessment Practice. The presentation showed the limitations of the current assessment practices and suggested a strategy for improvement.

Senior Managers who represented the Eastern Cape Head of Education, Mr Themba Kojana thanked the Director-General for his consistency in organising the provincial engagements, adding that they provide an in-depth knowledge to the education sector. Hence they enable provincial and district officials to improve school functionality and learner performance in several learning areas.





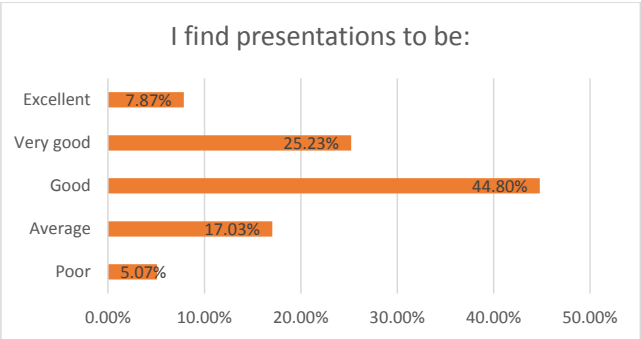


# QUANTITATIVE FEEDBACK FROM PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT OFFICIALS

EASTERN CAPE  
FEBRUARY 2018

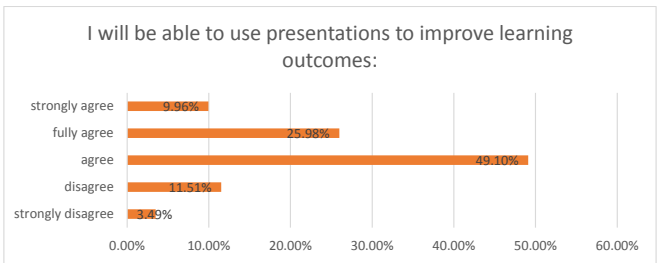


## I find presentations to be:



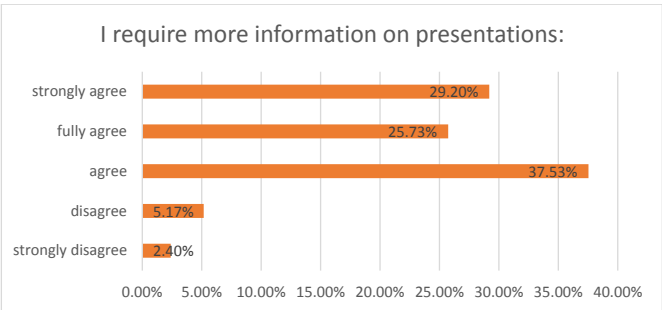
The graph above shows that 7.87 % of officials found the presentation to be excellent, whilst 25.23% of the officials found the presentations to be very good. 44.80% of officials found the presentation to be good. Only 17.07% and 5.07% of officials found the presentation to be average and poor respectively.

## I will be able to use presentations to improve learning outcomes



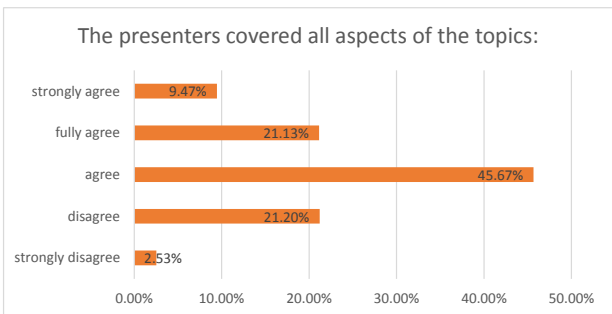
The graph above shows that 9.96% of officials strongly agreed they will be able to use the presentations to improve learning outcomes, whilst 25.98% and 49.10% of the officials fully agreed and agreed respectively that they will be able to use the presentations to improve learning outcomes. Only 11.51% and 3.49% of officials disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively that they will be able to use the presentations to improve learning outcomes.

## I require more information on presentations



The graph above shows that 29.20% of officials strongly agree that they require more information on presentations, whilst 25.73% of officials fully agreed and 37.53% of officials agreed. 5.17% and 2.40% of officials disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively that they require more information on presentations.

## The presenters covered all the aspects of the topics



The graph above shows that 9.47% and 21.13% of officials indicated that the presenters covered all aspects of the topics whilst 45.67% also agreed. 21.20% and 2.53% of officials indicated that they disagree and strongly disagree respectively that the presenters covered all aspects of the topics.

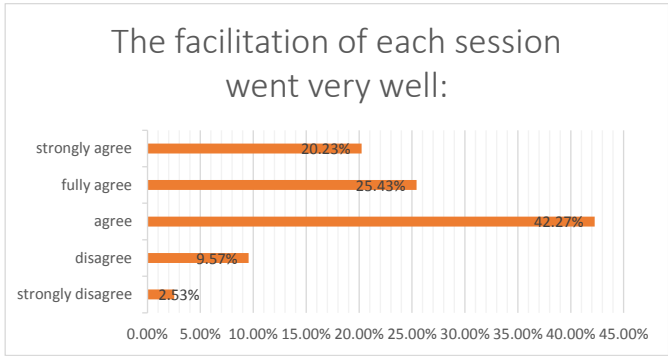


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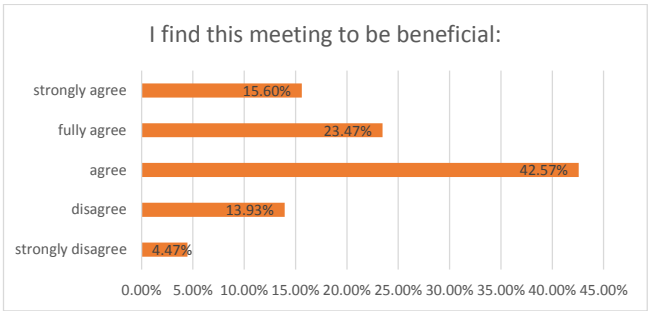


## The facilitation of each session went very well



The graph above shows that 20.23% of officials indicated that the facilitation of each session went very well, whilst 25.43% fully agreed and 42.27% agreed. 9.57% of officials disagreed that the facilitation of the session went very well whilst 2.53% strongly disagreed.

## I find this meeting to be beneficial



The graph above shows that 15.60% of officials strongly agreed that the meeting was beneficial, whilst 23.47% of officials fully agreed and 42.57% agreed. 13.93% of officials disagreed that the meeting was beneficial whilst 4.47% strongly disagreed.





# PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD OF THE DG'S VISIT TO EASTERN CAPE



# PROVINCIAL ENGAGEMENTS

2018

NSC 2017

PIRLS 2016



Publication 2  
First Semester 2018  
Eastern Cape (Part Two)

A system on the rise.

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