

"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

FREE STATE HAS 5 EDUCATION DISTRICTS:

Fezile Dabi
Thabo Mofutsanyana
Lejweleputswa
Motheo
Xhariep

IN 2017 THE FREE STATE PROVINCE HAD:

701 487
LEARNERS

23 590
EDUCATORS

1 255
SCHOOLS

%
LEARNER PERFORMANCE IN 2018 NSC
86.0% NSC PROVINCIAL PASS RATE
FIRST POSITION IN TWO CONSECUTIVE
YEARS

NSC PASSES:
BACHELOR 8 822
DIPLOMA 9 076
HIGHER CERTIFICATE 3 713

PROVINCIAL ENGAGEMENT IN THE FREE STATE PROVINCE



DG Mveli commences with the Free State Provincial Engagements

Week three of the Director-General (DG) of Basic Education, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli's provincial engagements commenced in the Thabo Mofutsanyane District on 21 February 2018. The visits continued in Bloemfontein on 22 February and concluded in Sasolburg on 23 February. More than 1 263 district officials including principals honoured the DG's invitation to attend the provincial engagements.

In his address, the DG congratulated the Province on three things:

- For obtaining first position in the 2017 National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations, and urged officials to celebrate the performance and recognise the value of their contributions. "if you do that, you will find strength to rise above the most difficult circumstances".
- He further applauded the districts for their punctuality and stressed that it is the cardinal ingredient to success, and also an important aspect of leadership. On average officials arrived 30 minutes before the start of the engagements which prompted the engagements to start earlier than scheduled.
- Lastly, the DG hailed the province for the outstanding performance during the recent National Teachers Awards. Four top achievers came from the province. He urged the province to maintain the sense of urgency that prevails currently in the province.

The DG outlined five (5) purposes of the engagements as:

- To cascade information that was shared during the Basic Education Lekgotla;
- To ensure that there is alignment across the system at national, provincial, district, circuit and school levels so that there is synergy in the system. This will ensure that there is one seamless message in the sector;
- To monitor and support the province;
- To motivate and commend the province in the work that it is doing; and
- To create an opportunity for dialogue between policy makers and policy implementers.

FREE STATE 2018 ENGAGEMENT

Four presentations were shared with officials and principals. The first presentation focussed on the 2016 Progress in International Literacy Study (PIRLS), the second presentation highlighted the Status of Learner Performance in the country and within the province based on the 2017 NSC results. The third presentation was on “Improving Assessment Practice”.

The presentations were succeeded by comments and question session. The issues raised may be summarised as follows:

- Dwindling number of learners offering Accounting in Grade 12 as presented in the NSC analysis;
- The implications of Circular S13 of 2017 on the Repeal of the proviso to Grade 11 learners;
- Management of progressed learners especially those writing Multiple Examination Options;
- The need to address compound subjects such as Economic Management Sciences and Social Sciences in General Education and Training; and
- Resourcing of schools offering the Practical Assessment Tasks (PATs) to support performance based assessment.

Ms Kelinametse Sebetoane, a school principal of Kaalspruit Primary Farm School found the presentations made by the DBE officials fruitful, “the engagement gave us courage and concrete information as school principals to continue working hard, to make the education of our children better,” however she also highlighted multi-grade teaching as one of her biggest challenges she is currently facing in her school, “multi-grade teaching continues to be a concern as teachers find themselves overworked and/or teaching subjects that they are not confident in,” she added.

During his visit to the Free State, the DG also took the opportunity to address the Thabo Thokoza Grade 12 learners. During his address he emphasized that success belongs to those who work extra hard and have self-discipline, Mr Mveli added that, “hard work does not start a week before you write exams, it starts now”, DG also reminded learners to listen to their teachers and remain disciplined by coming to school on time and working extra hours.

The engagements concluded with closing remarks from DDG, Mr M Monnane and CES, Mr P Sello. Mr Monnane extended words of gratitude to all officials and for the continuing support that the DG and team biannually provide to provinces through the provincial engagements. Mr Sello commended the presentations and said, “the presentations

are very informative, specifically the presentation delivered on NSC as it indicates that although we are currently number one in the province, we still have areas of challenges such as the throughput rate and the performance of learners doing Mathematics and Physical Sciences”. Mr Sello also thanked the DG and his team for empowering the province so that they continue to do well and also improve in areas that still needs to be worked on to achieve improved learning outcomes.



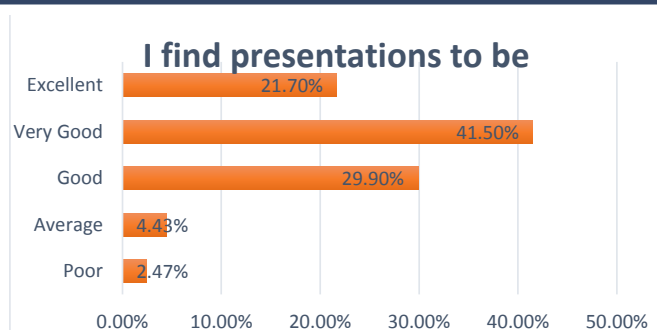


QUANTITATIVE FEEDBACK FROM PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT OFFICIALS

FREE STATE
FEBRUARY 2018

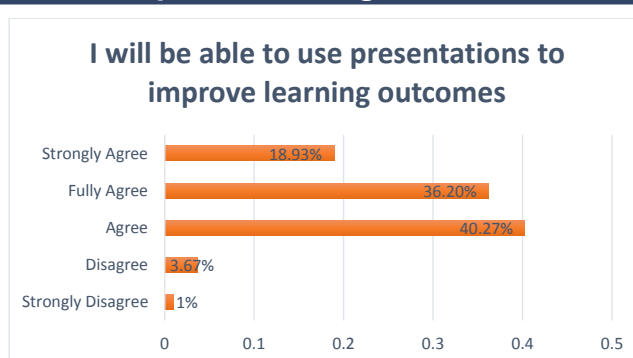


I find presentations to be:



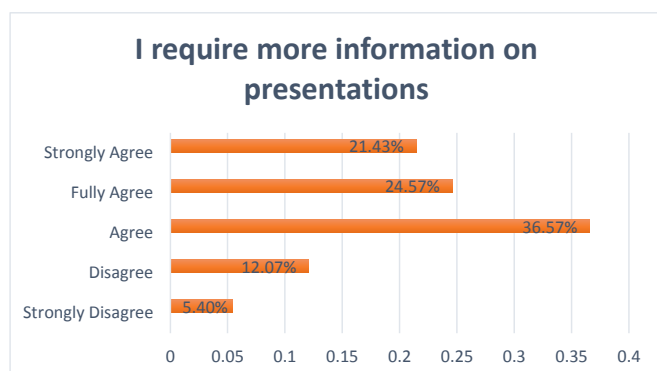
The graph above shows that 21.70 % of officials found the presentation to be excellent, whilst 41.50% of the officials found the presentations to be very good. 29.90% of officials found the presentation to be good. Only 4.43% and 2.47% of officials found the presentation to be average and poor respectively.

I will be able to use presentations to improve learning outcomes



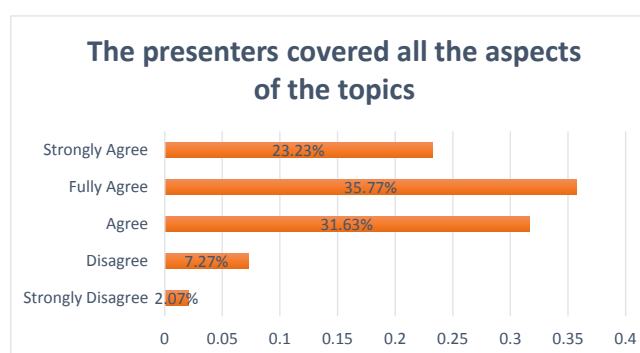
The graph above shows that 18.93% of officials strongly agreed they will be able to use the presentations to improve learning outcomes, whilst 36.20% and 40.27% of the officials fully agreed and agreed respectively that they will be able to use the presentations to improve learning outcomes. Only 3.67% and 1% 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 21.43% of officials strongly agreed that they require more information on presentations, whilst 24.57% of officials fully agreed and 36.57% of officials agreed. 12.07% and 5.40% 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 23.23% and 35.77% of officials strongly agreed and fully agreed respectively that the presenters covered all aspects of the topics whilst 31.63% of officials agreed. 7.27% and 2.07% of officials indicated that they disagree and strongly disagree respectively that the presenters covered all aspects of the topics.

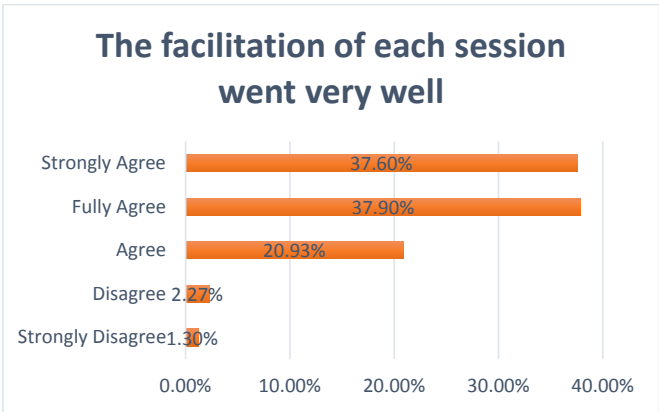


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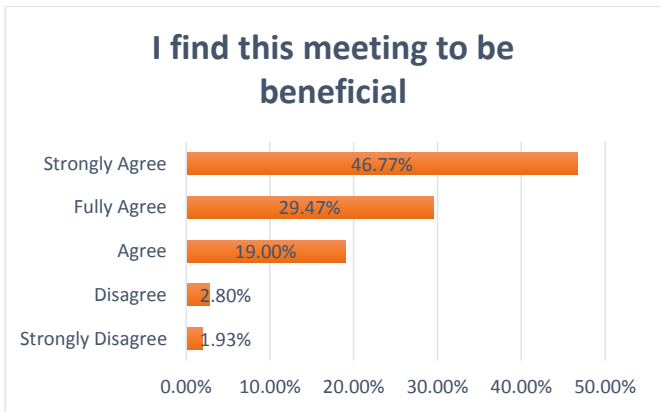


The facilitation of each session went very well



The graph above shows that 37.60% of officials strongly agreed that the facilitation of each session went very well, whilst 37.90% fully agreed and 20.93% agreed. 2.27% of officials disagreed that the facilitation of the session went very well whilst 1.30% strongly disagreed.

I find this meeting to be beneficial



The graph above shows that 46.77% of officials strongly agreed that the meeting was beneficial, whilst 29.47% of officials fully agreed and 19.0% agreed. 2.80% of officials disagreed that the meeting was beneficial whilst 1.93% of officials strongly disagreed.



PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD OF THE DG'S VISIT TO FREE STATE





PROVINCIAL ENGAGEMENTS

2018

NSC 2017

PIRLS 2016



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Free State

A system on the rise.

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