

"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

GAUTENG HAS 15 EDUCATION DISTRICTS:

EKURHULENI
NORTH

JOHANNESBURG
NORTH

EKURHULENI
SOUTH

JOHANNESBURG
SOUTH

GAUTENG EAST

JOHANNESBURG
WEST

GAUTENG NORTH

SEDIBENG EAST

GAUTENG WEST

SEDIBENG WEST

JOHANNESBURG
CENTRAL

TSHWANE NORTH

JOHANNESBURG
EAST

TSHWANE SOUTH

TSHWANE WEST

IN 2017 THE GAUTENG PROVINCE HAD:



2 413 225
LEARNERS



88 599
EDUCATORS



3 067
SCHOOLS

%

LEARNER PERFORMANCE IN 2017

NSC EXAMINATIONS

85.1% NSC PROVINCIAL PASS RATE
SECOND POSITION

NSC PASSES:

BACHELOR 35 012
DIPLOMA 34 444

HIGHER CERTIFICATE 13 296

PROVINCIAL ENGAGEMENT IN THE GAUTENG PROVINCE



The Director-General's (DG) provincial engagement in the Gauteng Province

This week the Director-General (DG), Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, undertook a three day engagement in Gauteng. The purpose of the meeting was outlined as in other provinces as follows:

- To reflect on the resolutions emanating from the Basic Education Sector Lekgotla, which was hosted at Saint George's Hotel from 22-24 January 2018;
- To strengthen the alignment between National, Provincial, District, Circuit down to classroom level so that there is synergy in the sector;
- To carry out Minister's obligations in terms of Section 8 of the National Education Policy Act (NEPA), Act no 27 of 1996, which mandates Department of Basic Education (DBE) senior officials to monitor policy implementation at provincial level;
- To strengthen each other in a quest to provide quality education in public schools; and
- To reach out to various role players in the value chain of providing quality education to close ranks in realizing the objectives and goals of the National Development Plan.

The first meeting in Gauteng took place in Daveyton on 15 March 2018 which was followed by Tshwane on 16 March 2018 and ended in Braamfischer on 19 March 2018. In total, the DG met with 4604 education officials and principals in Gauteng.

The overall performance of each province is subject to scrutiny as Basic Education Director-General meet with provincial, district, and circuit officials. In every province, one can feel a sense of renewed energy as officials are given a platform to raise issues that impact on quality learning and teaching in schools. The DG's provincial engagements provide an opportunity for reflecting on the progress made by each province and the sector as a whole, and to understand the mandate of the sector. One of the critical issues that dominate the discussions during these meetings is the inability of learners in the Intermediate Phase to read with understanding, promotion of reading across the curriculum, multigrade teaching, learner subject choice, school safety and teacher recruitment and development.

Mr Mveli also congratulated the province for having made efforts in supporting progressed learners in 2017. Out of 4 901 learners who wrote all seven subjects during the 2017 NSC Examinations, 3 367 passed. The drop in Mathematics

uptake was also raised as one of the areas that needed to be strengthened. The Director-General then advised the education officials to establish why the province faced a drop in the enrolment of learners in the gateway subjects such as Mathematics, Physical Science and Accounting. He further urged the provincial officials to come up with a strategy to promote the participation rate in these subjects.

The DG also met with school principals and called upon them to work harder in fulfilling the Inclusive Basket's requirements. "We need to ensure that our education system prepares learners for the changing world. Therefore teachers must provide clear guidance on career pathing for learners to make the right subject choices" remarked the Director-General.

During his presentations, Dr Poliah engaged the officials and the principals on two reports, the 2017 National Senior Certificate and the recent PIRLS (Progress in International Reading Literacy Study) Reports. Dr Poliah congratulated all districts in the Gauteng Province for having performed above 80% in 2017 NSC Examinations, with a total of 35 012 bachelor passes contributions. Dr Poliah further commended schools in quintile 1-3 for having raised the bar in 2017. More than 76 300 learners in Q1-3 schools achieved bachelor passes as compared to 67 867 learners in Quintile 4-5 schools. According to Dr Poliah, every school has a potential to achieve quality results. But the level of performance relies on the concrete intervention programmes initiated by districts in supporting struggling learners.

He further urged principals to strive for learner retention. "Monitor possible gatekeeping from Grade 11 to Grade 12 to ensure that all candidates who register for the NSC Examination finally sit for the final Examinations," said Dr Poliah. Apply the right criteria for progression to support struggling learners. He told education officials to assess and monitor quality learning and teaching in the Foundation Phase, particularly in the area of language teaching. "PIRLS mandates the education sector to make a paradigm shift in terms of improving language competency in both Foundation Phase and Intermediate Phase," said Dr Poliah. The study also revealed that girl-learners are one grade ahead of boy learners in terms of reading comprehension. This shows that we are doing something right in terms of supporting the girl learner, but not paying the same attention to boy-learners". The study further found that learners who were exposed to bullying perform poorly than those who have never been bullied. We therefore have to initiate collective measures to address bullying in our schools," remarked Dr Poliah.

Ms Florence Modipa, Chief Education Specialist for Policy in Curriculum, also made a presentation about Improving Assessment Practices in the classroom. She highlighted

the importance of striking a balance between Formative and Summative assessment. We need to go back to the basics of assessment, change the way we have been conducting assessment. We need a paradigm shift from testing learners to an Assessment paradigm for the 21st Century. This paradigm encourages a move towards Assessment for Learning as opposed to over emphasis of Assessment of learning. Curriculum managers in schools need to monitor the quality of school based assessment tasks, the quality of feedback and to ensure that assessment does not become an event but a holistic process that will begin to inform and affirm learning, set standards, monitor trends in performance and also for promotion, said Ms Modipa.

The District Director for Johannesburg Central, Ms Tshepo Seate, highlighted: All the presentations that were made during this meeting have provided us with an in-depth knowledge on improving learner assessment and language teaching. "PIRLS' findings raise a concern. We really have to work harder to improve the reading levels in the Foundation Phase and Intermediate Phase," remarked the District Director.

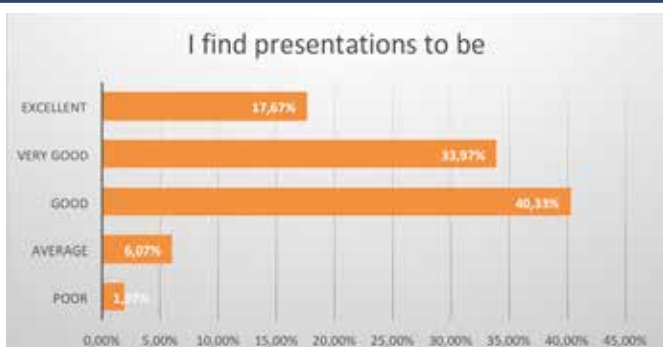
The Deputy Director-General for Curriculum Management and Delivery, Adv Bengtson, indicated that the Director-General's visit to the province has played a critical role in the improvement of learning outcomes. "These engagements are essential because they help us to have an external eye in terms of curriculum coverage and assessment. The data that were presented enable us to identify areas of strength and to pay attention in areas where our learners are encountering challenges. These areas include Accounting, Mathematics, Physical Science and English First Additional Language," highlighted the Deputy Director-General. "In 2018, we have initiated Secondary School Improvement Programme, which will focus on different cohort of learners including borderline, progressed, and gifted learners. Our districts are hard at work to ensure that we achieve a threshold of 85% this year. Every year we conduct autumn, winter, spring camps dedicated to improve effective learning. In addition to the current learner support programmes, we also intend to conduct Maths and Science focused camps to improve learner performance in the gateway subjects," explained Adv Bengtson. "The important thing I like about these engagements is the fact that they outline exactly what needs to happen in various hierarchies of schooling system to achieve high throughput rate. I commend the DG and his team for visiting our province; these engagements have been very informative and enlightening, we really thank the DG for the support," concluded the DDG.



QUANTITATIVE FEEDBACK FROM PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT OFFICIALS

GAUTENG
MARCH 2018

I find presentations to be:



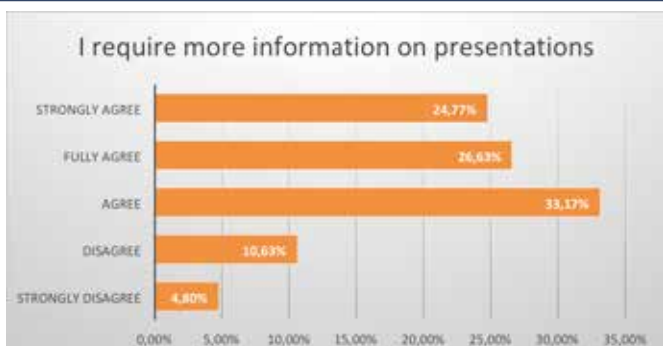
The graph above shows that 17.65 % of officials found the presentations to be excellent, whilst 33.97% of the officials found the presentations to be very good. 40.33% of officials found the presentations to be good. Only 6.07% and 1.97% of officials found the presentations to be average and poor respectively.

I will be able to use presentations to improve learning outcomes



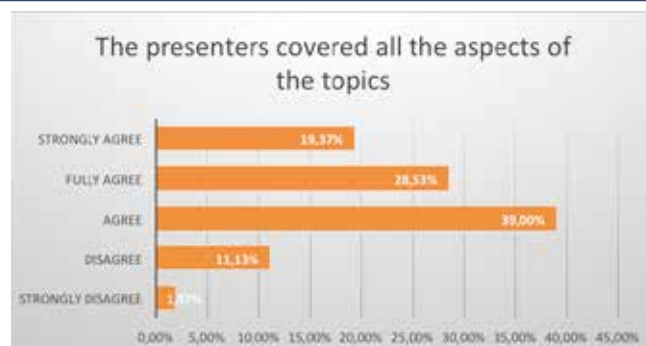
The graph above shows that 21.67% of officials strongly agreed they will be able to use the presentations to improve learning outcomes, whilst 37.27% and 34.70% of the officials fully agreed and agreed respectively. Only 5.03% and 1.27% of officials disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively that they will be able to use the presentations to improve learning outcomes.

I require more information on presentations



The graph above shows that 24.77% of officials strongly agreed that they require more information on presentations, whilst 26.63% of officials fully agreed and 33.17% of officials agreed. 10.63% and 4.80% of officials disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively that they require more information on presentations

The presenters covered all the aspects of the topics



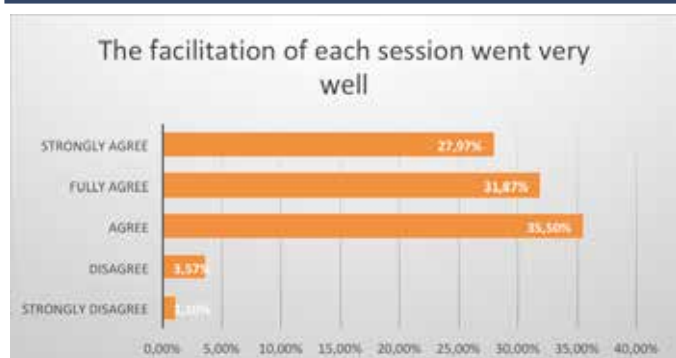
The graph above shows that 19.37% and 28.53% of officials strongly agreed and fully agreed respectively that the presenters covered all aspects of the topics whilst 39.00% of officials agreed. 11.13% and 1.97% of officials indicated that they disagree and strongly disagree respectively that the presenters covered all aspects of the topics.



QUANTITATIVE FEEDBACK FROM PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT OFFICIALS

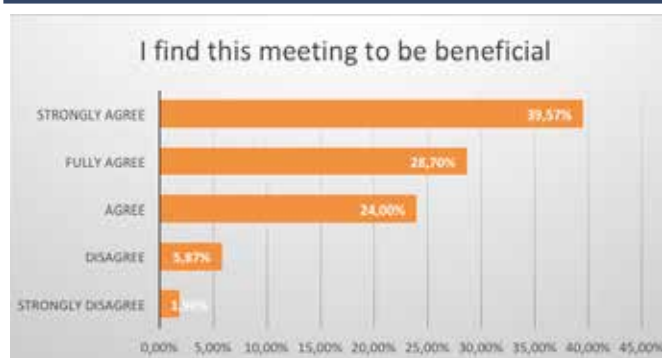
GAUTENG
MARCH 2018

The facilitation of each session went very well



The graph above shows that 27.97% of officials strongly agreed that the facilitation of each session went very well, whilst 31.87% fully agreed and 35.50% agreed. 3.57% of officials disagreed that the facilitation of the session went very well whilst 1.10% strongly disagreed.

I find this meeting to be beneficial



The graph above shows that 39.57% of officials strongly agreed that the meeting was beneficial, whilst 28.70% of officials fully agreed and 24.00% agreed. 5.87% of officials disagreed that the meeting was beneficial whilst 1.90% of officials strongly disagreed.



PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD OF THE DG'S VISIT TO GAUTENG





PROVINCIAL ENGAGEMENTS

2018

NSC 2017

PIRLS 2016



Publication 6
First Semester 2018
Gauteng

A system on the rise.

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