

"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

KWAZULU-NATAL HAS 12 EDUCATION DISTRICTS:

Amajuba	Umkhanyakude
Ilembe	Umlazi
Pinetown	Umzinyathi
Harry Gwala	Uthukela
Ugu	Uthungulu
Umgungundlovu	Zululand

IN 2017 THE KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE HAD:

 **2 863 316**
LEARNERS

 **93 340**
EDUCATORS

 **6 099**
SCHOOLS

%

LEARNER PERFORMANCE IN 2018 NSC
72.8% NSC PROVINCIAL PASS RATE
MOST IMPROVED PROVINCE
6.4% IMPROVEMENT FROM 2016

NSC PASSES:
BACHELOR 35 687
DIPLOMA 36 453
HIGHER CERTIFICATE 18 400

PROVINCIAL ENGAGEMENT IN THE KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE



The Director-General of the Department of Basic Education (DBE), Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, joined by a team of education experts from both the Department of Basic Education (DBE) and KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Education Department (PDE), spent four days in the KwaZulu-Natal Province, meeting with key education stakeholders in various part of the province. The meetings were held in the Amajuba, Mzinyathi, Uthukela, Umgungundlovu , Harry Gwala Ugu, Ilembe, Pinetown, and Umlazi Districts. The KwaZulu-Natal Head of Education, Dr Enoch Nzama, KwaZulu-Natal Acting Deputy Director-General for Curriculum, Dr BJ Mthembu, the Chief Director for National Assessment and Public Examination, Dr Rufus Poliah and Chief Education Specialist responsible for the development of National Education Policies and Regulations for both GET and FET Phases, Ms Florence Modipa were amongst the key education officials who made presentations at these meetings.

The main aim of these meetings in the province is to mobilise all relevant education officials to work towards improving learning outcomes across the education system. As part of his visits, the Director-General, called upon the more than 6000 education officials which included subject advisors, circuit managers, school principals, provincial and district officials to review progress made by the province in terms of supporting progressed learners, improving reading levels, increasing Mathematics uptake and increasing throughput rate in the entire province. Mr Mveli's first day was spent at Windsor Secondary School in Ladysmith on 06 February 2018. He then proceeded to Carter High, in Pietermaritzburg on 07 February 2018. The Third engagement was hosted at Bethsaida International Ministries in Phoenix, Durban on 08 February 2018. The Director-General wrapped up his engagement meeting at the Umfolozi TVET College in Richards Bay on 09 February 2018.

The KwaZulu-Natal province continues to show a significant improvement in several aspects of the schooling system. Apart from achieving a high pass rate in Mathematics and Physical Science in 2017, the province has also made progress in attaining a high number of bachelor passes in various subjects as compared with other provinces nationally. In his presentation, Dr Poliah praised the excellent work done by the education officials in supporting 2017 progressed learners. "Out of 5356 progressed learners who wrote the 2017 NSC Examinations in the province 3026 passed. Furthermore, a total of 400 learners obtained bachelor passes followed by a total of 1544 learners achieving diploma passes. "This is because of your collective efforts towards improving quality education; keep up the good work," said Dr Poliah applauding KZN officials.

Dr Poliah further indicated that one of the most important attributes that needs more emphasis is the improvement of reading levels in the Foundation Phase. “If we deal with issues of language competency in different phases of the education sector, especially in the Foundation Phase, learner performance in the content subjects will improve significantly,” remarked the Chief Director for National Assessment and Public Examination. Continuing with his presentation, Dr Poliah highlighted: “The province will need to monitor throughput rate quite closely. Our education system has done tremendous work in sustaining throughput rate from Grade one to Grade 10. However, a slow pace has been observed in Grade 11 to 12. I therefore urge you to work hard to ensure that you achieve throughput rate in the aforementioned grades.”

The Chief Director advised the province to pay attention to learner subject choice to ensure that learners choose subject streams wisely. “Quality learning and teaching in gate way subjects will have to be improved to afford learners an opportunity to secure admissions at the institution of higher learning,” he said.

Dr Mthembu said that the Director-General’s provincial engagement meetings in the province had set a tone for the educators, school principals and district directors to up their game throughout this year. “The presentations made by various DBE senior officials were rich in content and have assisted us to understand how our province is performing as compared with the other eight provinces. The information shared has also enlightened us to measure our performance and improve where necessary,” highlighted Dr Mthembu.

“In 2017, much energy and resources went into supporting the progressed and modularised learners. During 2017, we ensured that these learners were accommodated in various camps to improve their learning outcomes in the subjects for which they have enrolled.

We also provided learning support material in various subjects so that they were well prepared for the final year NSC Examinations. The progressed learners were also part of an intensive revision programme aimed at preparing learners for the NSC Examination annually. The fact that 400 learners attained bachelors and 1544 achieved diploma passes was not a surprise to us; we really worked hard to achieve this,” explained Dr Mthembu. Dr Mthembu further stated that those learners who modularised have been fully supported and are expected to sit for the NSC Examination in June 2018.

In his address, Mr Mweli encouraged the province to keep on supporting the progressed learners to assist them in attaining the NSC Certificate. “The intention of embarking on these visits was to identify the best education model and find other solutions to various issues that are impacting on quality learning and teaching in the province. Furthermore, we have visited this province to strengthen your arm as pillars of the education system so that you do your work to the best of your ability,” explained the Director-General.

Mr Mweli further re-iterated the point that the South African education system is on a rising trajectory. He appealed to the provincial officials to ensure that there are fundamentals in place to improve efficiency and quality within the education sector. Mr Mweli maintained that the district directors have to forge strong collaboration with school principals and teachers to sustain discipline in public schools. “All collective efforts invested in this sector seek to improve quality learning and teaching in public schools. I therefore urge teachers to spend quality time in class, teaching to cover the syllabus as expected,” remarked Mr Mweli.





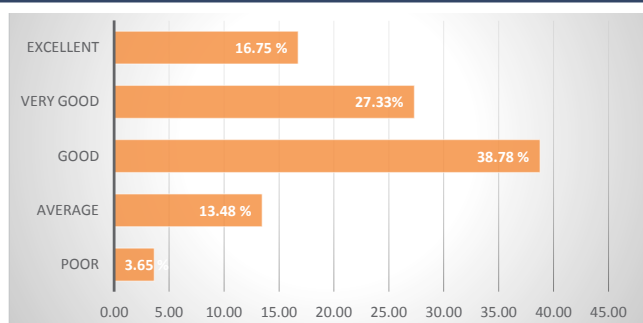


QUANTITATIVE FEEDBACK FROM PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT OFFICIALS

KWAZULU-NATAL
FEBRUARY 2018

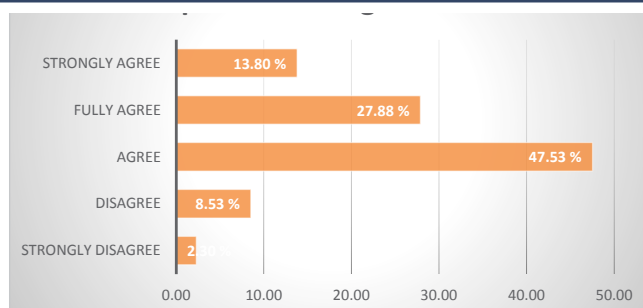


I find presentations to be:



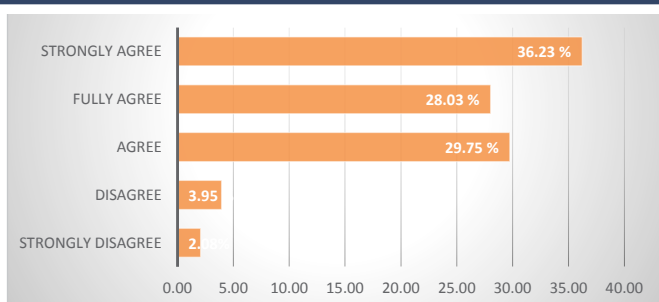
The graph above shows that 16.75 % of officials found the presentation to be excellent, whilst 27.33% of the officials found the presentations to be very good. 38.78% of officials found the presentation to be good. Only 13.48% and 3.65% of officials found the presentation to be poor and average respectively.

I will be able to use presentations to improve learning outcomes



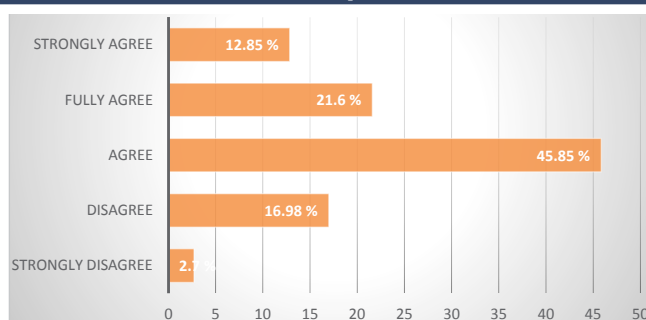
The graph above shows that 13.80 % of officials strongly agreed that they will be able to use the presentations to improve learning outcomes, whilst 27.88% and 47.53% of the officials fully agreed and agreed respectively that they will be able to use the presentations to improve learning outcomes. Only 8.53% and 2.30% 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 36.23% of officials strongly agreed that they require more information on presentations, whilst 28.03% of officials fully agreed and 29.75% agreed. 3.95% and 2.7% 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 12.85% and 21.6% of officials strongly agreed and fully agreed respectively that the presenters covered all aspects of the topics whilst 45.85% agreed. 16.98% and 2.08% of officials indicated that they disagree and strongly disagree respectively that the presenters covered all aspects of the topics.

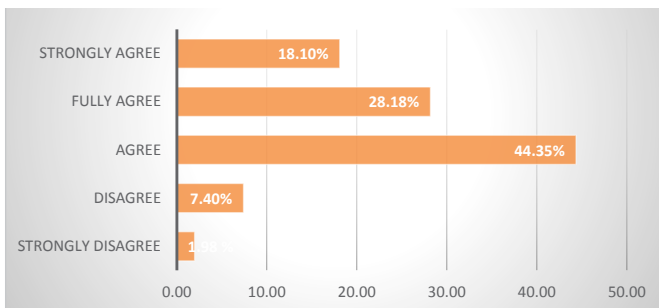


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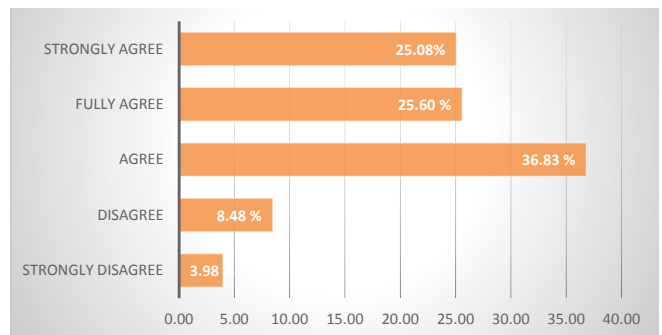


The facilitation of each session went very well



The graph above shows that 18.10% of officials strongly agreed that the facilitation of each session went very well, whilst 28.18% fully agreed and 44.35% agreed. 7.40% of officials disagreed that the facilitation of the session went very well whilst 1.98% strongly disagreed.

I find this meeting to be beneficial



The graph above shows that 25.08% of officials strongly agreed that the meeting was beneficial, whilst 25.60% of the officials fully agreed and 36.83% agreed. 8.48% of officials disagreed that the meeting was beneficial whilst 3.98% strongly disagreed.



PROVINCIAL ENGAGEMENTS

2018

NSC 2017

PIRLS 2016



Publication 1
First Semester 2018
KWAZULU-NATAL

A system on the rise.

222 Struben Street

Private Bag X895, Pretoria, 0001

Telephone: 012 357 3000 Fax: 012 323 0601

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