

"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

## NORTHERN CAPE HAS 5 EDUCATION DISTRICTS:

Lebowakgomo

Capricorn

Greater Sekhukhune

Vhembe

Mutale

Waterberg

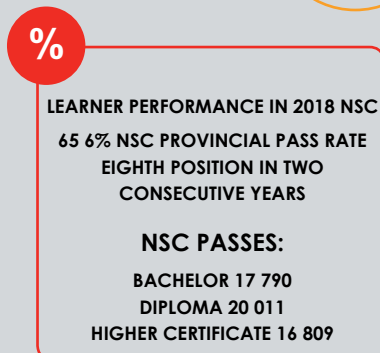
Mogalakwena

Mopani

Tzaneen

Riba Cross

## IN 2017 THE LIMPOPO PROVINCE HAD:



# PROVINCIAL ENGAGEMENT IN THE LIMPOPO PROVINCE



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

The provincial engagements were initiated by the Director-General (DG) three years ago with an intention to improve quality learning and teaching across all nine provinces. These engagements create a platform for education officials to discuss educational issues as a collective with the intention to turn public schools into centres of excellence.

Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, spent five days visiting various districts in the Limpopo province where he met with education officials at provincial and district levels. The first engagement was held in Waterberg District on 05 March 2018, followed by another meeting in Vhembe District on 07 March 2018. Other visits were conducted in Tzaneen on 08 March 2018, in Sekhukhune on 12 March 2018 and in Capricorn District on 14 March 2018. To date, Mr Mveli visited five provinces and is satisfied with the level of cooperation shown by provinces and districts, particularly on issues of policy implementation.

In his address, the DG commended district officials and school principals for attending all the provincial engagements. Mr Mveli encouraged the provincial officials to keep working hard to assist underperforming districts to perform above the 70% threshold. Two districts in the province performed within the range of 50% to 59% whereas the other two districts performed within the threshold of 60% to 69.9%. Limpopo Province had one district, which performed above the 70% threshold during the 2017 National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examinations. The DG said: "This province must be commended for having registered an improvement of 3.6% in 2017. Even though it may be seen as a small increase in Limpopo, it makes a huge difference in the overall performance nationally".

Mr Mveli stated that school principals should be given full support to strengthen the education system. "This will enable public schools to perform at the same desired level," added the Director-General. Mr Mveli said that there are several reasons why these visits are conducted in provinces, namely:

- 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;

## LIMPOPO 2018 ENGAGEMENT

- To strengthen alignment in the sector from National to Provincial, District, down to classroom level;
- To carry out Minister's obligations in terms of National Education Policy Act (NEPA), Act no 27 of 1996, Section 8; which mandates DBE senior officials to monitor policy implementation at provincial level;
- To strengthen strategies aimed at providing quality education in public schools;
- 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 DBE's Acting Director for System Administrations, Mr Hilton Visagie, who made a presentation on *the 2016 Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS)*, emphasized that teachers will have to focus more on improving reading levels in lower grades in order to achieve quality passes in the education sector. "The promotion of a reading revolution is a call for all officials, parents and guardians to ensure that children embrace reading as one of the important attributes to success," said Mr Vissagie.

Limpopo Deputy Director-General for Curriculum, Ms Onicca Khathutshelo Dederen, acknowledged Mr Mweli's efforts in ensuring that officials at the provincial level are empowered with an in-depth knowledge around issues relating to curriculum coverage in public schools. "I commend Mr Mweli and his team for spending quality time in our province. We really learn a lot from these engagements. Thank you once more for your continued support in engaging key education officials who are responsible for improving learning outcomes in our schools," she added.

The District Director for Vhembe District, Dr Nthambeleni Rambiyana said that, "different strategies are already in place to improve quality learning and teaching in all phases. "Although the main focus to improve language competency begins from Grade 4, learners in the Foundation Phase should also be prepared to grow up with the love for books," remarked Dr Rambiyana.

The District Director for Mopani District, Dr Livhuwani Mafenya, concluded the meeting by acknowledging the presentations made by the DBE team. Mafenya highlighted that she plans to initiate more intervention programmes to ensure that schools function effectively. "As the Mopani District, we will work hard to close the learning gaps identified

through the presentations. First thing that we need to do is to ensure that our intervention programmes are not targeted only at learners in Grade 12 but the entire education sector," remarked Dr Mafenya.



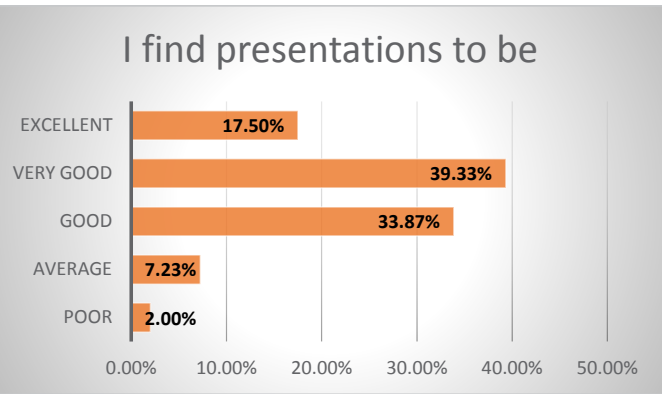


# QUANTITATIVE FEEDBACK FROM PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT OFFICIALS

LIMPOPO  
FEBRUARY 2018

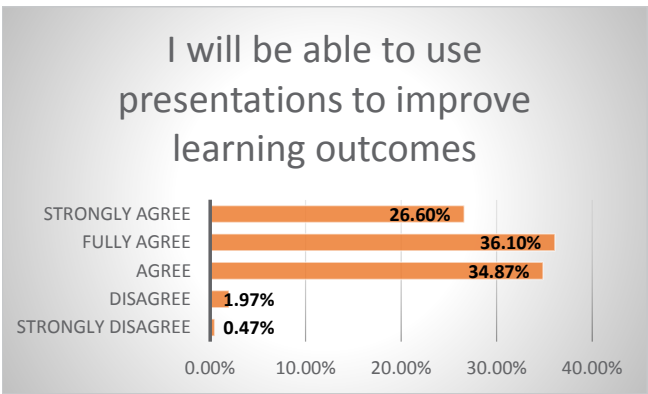


## I find presentations to be:



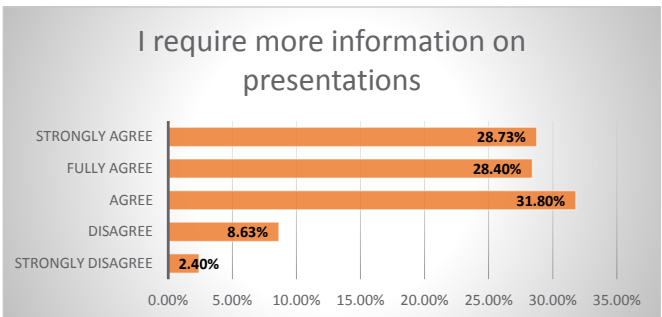
The graph above shows that 17.50 % of officials found the presentations to be excellent, whilst 39.33% of the officials found the presentations to be very good. 33.87% of officials found the presentations to be good. Only 7.23% and 2.0% of officials found the presentations to be average and poor respectively.

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



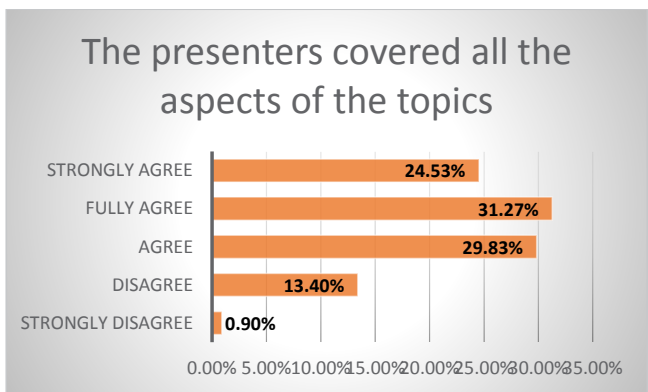
The graph above shows that 26.60% of officials strongly agreed they will be able to use the presentations to improve learning outcomes, whilst 36.10% and 34.87% of the officials fully agreed and agreed respectively. Only 1.97% and 0.47% of officials disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively that they will be able to use the presentations to improve learning outcomes.

## I require more information on presentations



The graph above shows that 28.73% of officials strongly agreed that they require more information on presentations, whilst 28.40% of officials fully agreed and 31.80% of officials agreed. 8.63% 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 24.53% and 31.27% of officials strongly agreed and fully agreed respectively that the presenters covered all aspects of the topics whilst 29.83% of officials agreed. 13.40% and 0.90% of officials indicated that they disagree and strongly disagree respectively that the presenters covered all aspects of the topics.

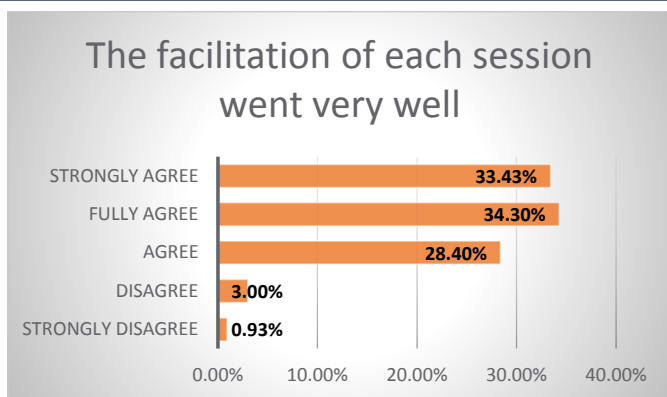


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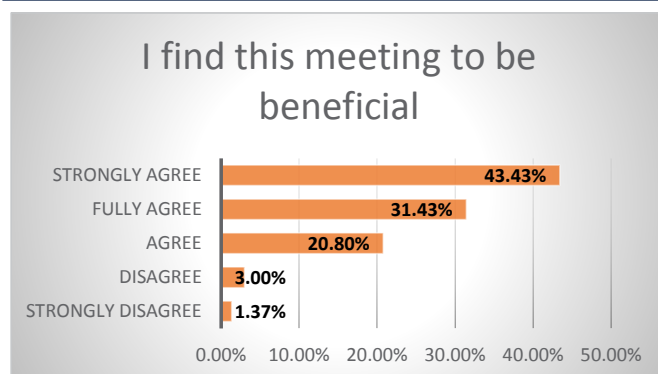


## The facilitation of each session went very well



The graph above shows that 33.43% of officials strongly agreed that the facilitation of each session went very well, whilst 34.30% fully agreed and 28.40% agreed. 3.0% of officials disagreed that the facilitation of the session went very well whilst 0.93% strongly disagreed.

## I find this meeting to be beneficial



The graph above shows that 43.43% of officials strongly agreed that the meeting was beneficial, whilst 31.43% of officials fully agreed and 20.80% agreed. 3.0% of officials disagreed that the meeting was beneficial whilst 1.37% of officials strongly disagreed.



# PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD OF THE DG'S VISIT TO LIMPOPO





# PROVINCIAL ENGAGEMENTS

2018

NSC 2017

PIRLS 2016



Publication 4  
First Semester 2018  
Limpopo

A system on the rise.

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