

"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

## MPUMALANGA HAS 4 EDUCATION DISTRICTS:

Ehlanzeni  
Nkangala

Gert Sibanda  
Bohlabela

## IN 2017 THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCE HAD:



1 096 428  
LEARNERS



34 546  
EDUCATORS



1 836  
SCHOOLS

%

LEARNER PERFORMANCE IN 2018 NSC  
74.8% NSC PROVINCIAL PASS RATE  
SIXTH POSITION IN TWO  
CONSECUTIVE YEARS

### NSC PASSES:

BACHELOR 11 335  
DIPLOMA 15 628  
HIGHER CERTIFICATE 9 291

# PROVINCIAL ENGAGEMENT IN THE MPUMALANGA PROVINCE



The Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli concluded the first phase of his engagement with provinces in the Mpumalanga province on 18 April and 20 April 2018.

In addressing the meeting of education officials (provincial officials, district directors, circuit managers, subject advisors and school principals), in Middleburg on 18 April and Nelspruit on 20 April Mr Mveli drew their attention to the five social justice principles of access, redress, equity, efficiency and quality by which the performance of the system may be assessed. Although every province has unique strategies and plans initiated to support schools, there are common challenges facing the education sector in all nine provinces. The issues that were raised in most of the meetings included, training of teachers in language teaching, the improvement of effective teaching in Accounting as one the critical commercial subjects, the promotion of participation and through put rate in Mathematics and Physical Sciences and the improvement of effective functionality of technical schools in the country.

Mr Hilton Visagie, the Manager for Administration, Certification and Data Processing said that effective learning and teaching need to be emphasised in the Foundation and Intermediate Phases. "School principals should play an integral role in ensuring that teachers apply the right techniques of teaching reading in the General Education and Training (GET) band. Language teachers should be upskilled to become more language competent," said Mr Visagie. Ms Modipa, Chief Education Specialist for Policy in Curriculum, said teachers must employ the educational imperative aimed at developing learners who can think critically and creatively, use evidence to support their solutions in complex problems, and communicate clearly. "The Implementation of formative assessment is a strong mechanism to determine effective learning outcomes," said Ms Modipa, adding that, "quality of School Based Assessments (SBA) in GET should be improved to prepare learners for Further Education and Training (FET). Therefore, provinces must empower teachers in the implementation of SBA to ensure that effective learning and teaching prevail. "Absence of formative assessment results in accumulated content deficits due to shortage of immediate remediation," remarked Ms Modipa.

## MPUMALANGA 2018 ENGAGEMENT

In his address, Mr Mveli told the education officials that much progress has been made in terms of improving quality education in public schools. However, Mr Mveli mentioned that more effort should be placed on improving quality and efficiency for learners, such that they leave the schooling system with the requisite skills such as problem solving, analytical and critical thinking. "The results from the 2017 National Senior Certificate Examinations confirm that the System is on the rise," remarked Mr Mveli, adding that, "a total of 803 431 candidates enrolled to write the 2017 NSC Examinations. 401 435 candidates attained the NSC, an increase of 2.6% from 2016. The percentage of learners achieving admission to bachelor studies increased from 26.6% in 2016 to 28.7% in 2017. In terms of redress, 243 260 candidates from no-fee schools obtained the NSC compared to 138 525 from fee-paying schools. 76 300 candidates who achieved the admission to bachelor studies come from no-fee paying schools compared to 67 867 from fee paying schools," explained the Director-General.

With regard to equity, 296 201 girls wrote the NSC Examinations as compared to 238 283 boys. 84 516 girls also attained admission to Bachelor studies compared to 69 094 boys. 62.6% of the distinctions were attained by girl learners, including distinctions in critical subjects such as Accounting, Business Studies, Economics, Mathematics and Physical Science," added Mr Mveli.

Mr Mveli further emphasised that the sector must invest more resources in the improving quality and efficiency in public schools. He then called upon school principals to use data to analyse learning gaps in various subject streams and provide schools with adequate support to achieve quality learning outcomes. "The sector can do better if all the education stakeholders could come together to improve quality learning and teaching in the Foundation and Intermediate Phases," said Mr Mveli. The Director-General further informed those in attendance that the sector should come up with collective approaches in dealing with deficits that are impacting negatively on effective functioning of schools.

Mr Jan Mkwana, the Acting Deputy Director-General for Curriculum, said the Director-General's meeting was very helpful because it enlightened key education officials on the direction the sector is taking. "These meetings encouraged us to pay more attention to challenging learning areas including gateway subjects such as Mathematics, Physical Science and Accounting. With the information shared during

these meetings, we are confident that our schools will improve for the better this year," said Mr Mkwana.





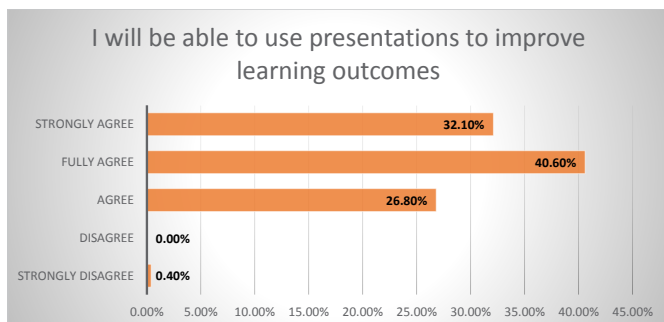


# QUANTITATIVE FEEDBACK FROM PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT OFFICIALS

MPUMALANGA  
MARCH 2018

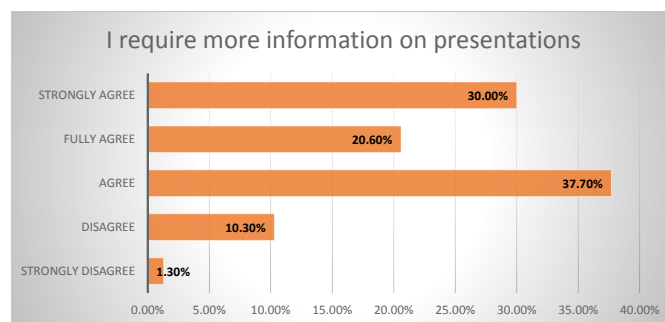


**I will be able to use presentations to  
improve learning outcomes:**



The graph above shows that 32.1% of officials strongly agreed they will be able to use the presentations to improve learning outcomes, whilst 40.6% and 26.8% of the officials fully agreed and agreed respectively. Only 0.4% 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 30% of officials strongly agreed that they require more information on presentations, whilst 20.6% of officials fully agreed and 37.7% of officials agreed. 10.3% and 1.3% of officials disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively that they require more information on presentations

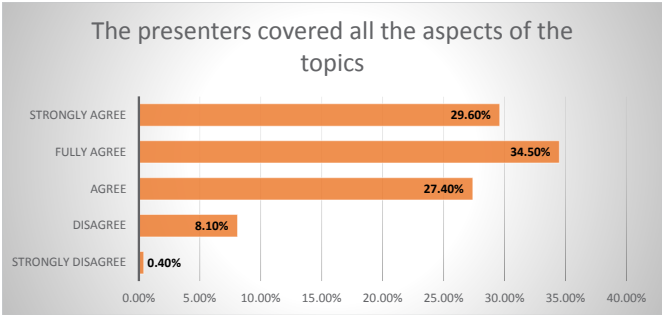




# QUANTITATIVE FEEDBACK FROM PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT OFFICIALS

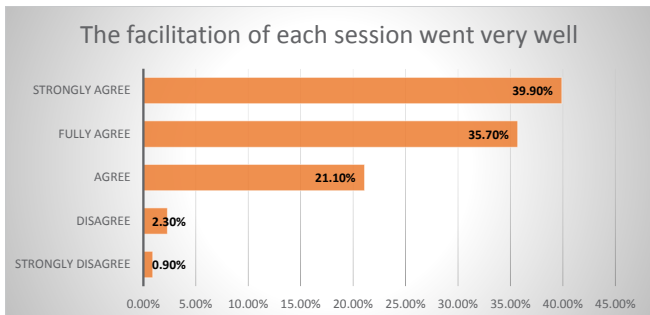
MPUMALANGA  
MARCH 2018

The presenters covered all the aspects of the topics



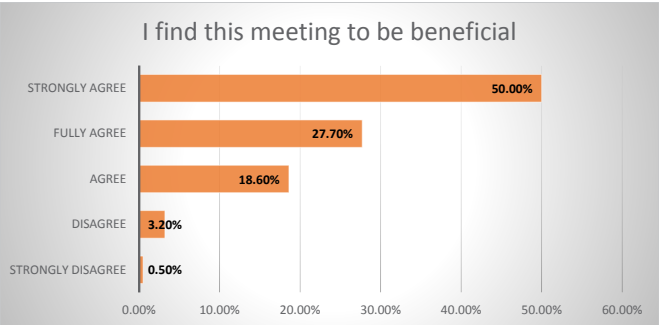
The graph above shows that 29.6% and 34.5% of officials strongly agreed and fully agreed respectively that the presenters covered all aspects of the topics whilst 27.4% of officials agreed. 8.1% and 0.4% of officials indicated that they disagree and strongly disagree respectively that the presenters covered all aspects of the topics.

The facilitation of each session went very well



The graph above shows that 39.9% of officials strongly agreed that the facilitation of each session went very well, whilst 35.7% fully agreed and 21.1% agreed. 2.3% of officials disagreed that the facilitation of the session went very well whilst 0.9% strongly disagreed.

I find this meeting to be beneficial



The graph above shows that 50.0% of officials strongly agreed that the meeting was beneficial, whilst 27.7% of officials fully agreed and 18.6% agreed. 3.2% of officials disagreed that the meeting was beneficial whilst 0.5% of officials strongly disagreed.





# PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD OF THE DG'S VISIT TO MPUMALANGA







# PROVINCIAL ENGAGEMENTS

2018

NSC 2017

PIRLS 2016



Publication 9  
First Semester 2018  
Mpumalanga

A system on the rise.

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