

"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

## WESTERN CAPE HAS 8 EDUCATION DISTRICTS:

Overberg  
Education  
District


Metro East  
Education  
District


Eden/Karoo

Cape  
Winelands  
Metro Central  
Metro North  
West Coast  
Metro South

## IN 2017 THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE HAD:

  
**1 127 634**  
LEARNERS

  
**37 585**  
EDUCATORS

  
**1 776**  
SCHOOLS

**%**  
**LEARNER PERFORMANCE IN 2018 NSC**  
**82.7% NSC PROVINCIAL PASS RATE**  
**THIRD POSITION IN TWO**  
**CONSECUTIVE YEARS**  
  
**NSC PASSES:**  
**BACHELOR 19 101**  
**DIPLOMA 15 030**  
**HIGHER CERTIFICATE 6 281**

# PROVINCIAL ENGAGEMENT IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE



## Provincial Engagement Meeting in the Western Cape Province

Basic Education Director-General (DG), Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mweli, undertook a two day visit to Western Cape Province, where he met with various education officials such as subject advisors, circuit managers, district directors, and school principals. The Director-General's first provincial engagement was in Cape Town on 26 March 2018. Mr Mweli then concluded the provincial engagement in George on 27 March 2018.

Through these engagements, Mr Mweli intends to meet with as many education officials as possible, to cascade the outcome of the Basic Education Sector Lekgotla, which was held at Saint George Hotel, in Pretoria from 22-24 March 2018. The DG also utilises these meetings to strengthen key education officials' understanding of the education sector, especially on issues of policy implementation.

In his address, Mr Mweli said: "We embarked on this project to strengthen the alignment from National to Provincial, District, School and up to classroom level. Meetings of this nature enable us to strengthen each other's efforts in providing quality basic education. We therefore intend to reach out to various role players in the value chain of providing quality basic education to close the ranks in realising the objectives and goals set out in the National Development Plan. The engagements also afford us the opportunity to strengthen each other's arms so that both the Department of Basic Education (DBE) and all nine Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) share common goals towards improving learning outcomes."

Mr Mweli further told district officials that more efforts and energy need to be invested in the Foundation Phase to ensure that learners move to higher grades having mastered critical skills such as writing, reading and counting.

A total of 453 key education officials comprising district officials and school principals were engaged through the provincial engagements and this has undoubtedly, fostered good working relationships amongst senior officials at national, provincial and district levels.

The Director-General congratulated the province for having achieved high number of distinctions and bachelors passes in 2017. However, he advised the district officials to put more efforts into supporting struggling learners in the education system.

## WESTERN CAPE 2018 ENGAGEMENT

During the engagement at the Metro North Education District, the Chief Director for the National Assessments and Public Examination, Dr Rufus Poliah, said: “Districts must monitor schools to ensure that teachers are not pushing learners to choose softer subjects because eventually these learners end up with certificate that adds no value to their career path. Dr Poliah pleaded with the Western Cape Province to focus more on the progressed and part time learners to improve throughput rate in the education sector.

The Acting Director for System Administrations, Mr Hilton Visagie, who engaged education stakeholders in George, said, “learner performance in home languages, particularly at the Foundation Phase level, demands our collective efforts to prepare learners for the Intermediate and Senior Phases. Learners need to be provided with sufficient reading resources in a language of learning and teaching and home languages to become avid readers.”

Mr Visagie then turned the focus of his presentation to the 2017 National Senior Certificate, which reflected on the provincial performance in various learning areas. “The province would need to monitor learners who register for NSC Examinations to ensure that they eventually write as registered. I urge you to come up with intervention programmes to support progressed learners to ensure that those who are supposed to be progressed are given a chance to complete Grade 12” said Mr Visagie.

In her presentation, Ms Florence Modipa, the Chief Education Specialist for Curriculum Policy indicated that the South African assessment landscape needs to be strengthened to improve quality learning and teaching in schools.

Ms Modipa further stated that teachers need to be empowered in the designing of assessment tasks to facilitate effective learning in class. “Teachers should be equipped to give frequent feedback to learners so that they can be able to achieve quality passes in the subjects that they offer, particularly in the challenging subjects. Let’s work together to strengthen quality assessments at school level so that learners are fully supported to perform optimally,” said Ms Modipa.

Ms Modipa said that provinces can improve quality assessments when the following theories of change at classroom level are considered, namely:

- Enhanced capacity of district officials to support teachers and schools;
- Enhanced teacher Assessment knowledge and skills;

- Increased learner engagement;
- Improved learner performance; and
- Improved teacher assessment practice.

The Western Cape Deputy Director-General for Curriculum and Assessment, Dr Peter Beets, acknowledged the DG’s visit to the province, saying that it has enabled the education officials to get a broader picture of what needs to be improved in the education sector. “These meetings are very crucial because they provide us with a national perspective on the provincial performance, particularly in the gateway subjects such as Mathematics, Physical Science and Accounting. Through these engagements, we are empowered to align our strategies in such a way that they are responsive to issues raised by presenters through various topics including Progress in International Reading and Literacy Study (PIRLS) and the National Senior Certificate and the improvement of Assessment Practices Reports,” said Dr Beets





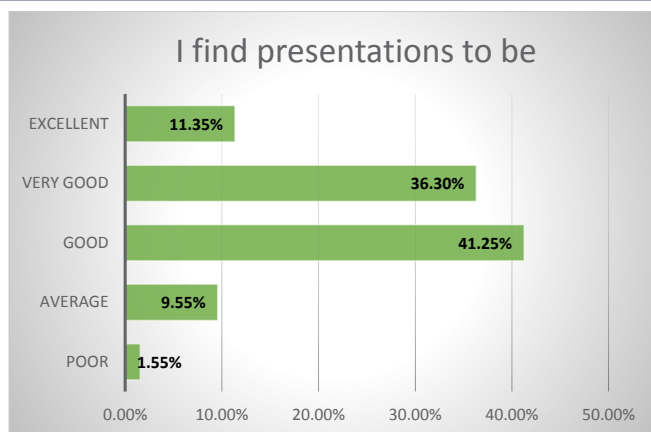


# QUANTITATIVE FEEDBACK FROM PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT OFFICIALS

WESTERN CAPE  
MARCH 2018

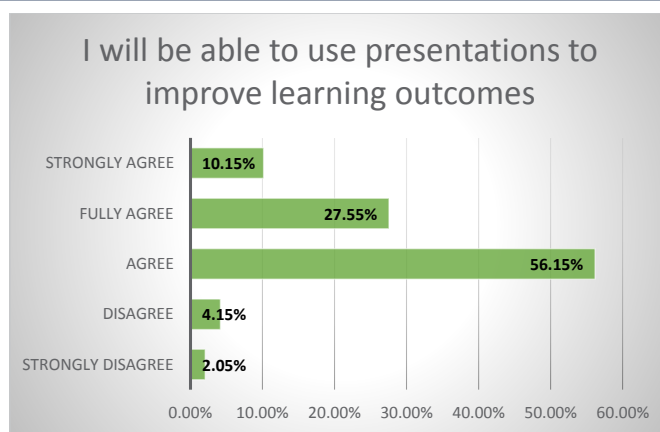


I find presentations to be:



The graph above shows that 11.35 % of officials found the presentations to be excellent, whilst 36.30% of the officials found the presentations to be very good. 41.25% of officials found the presentations to be good. Only 9.55% and 1.55% 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 10.15% of officials strongly agreed they will be able to use the presentations to improve learning outcomes, whilst 27.55% and 56.15% of the officials fully agreed and agreed respectively. Only 4.15% and 2.05% of officials disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively that they will be able to use the presentations to improve learning outcomes.

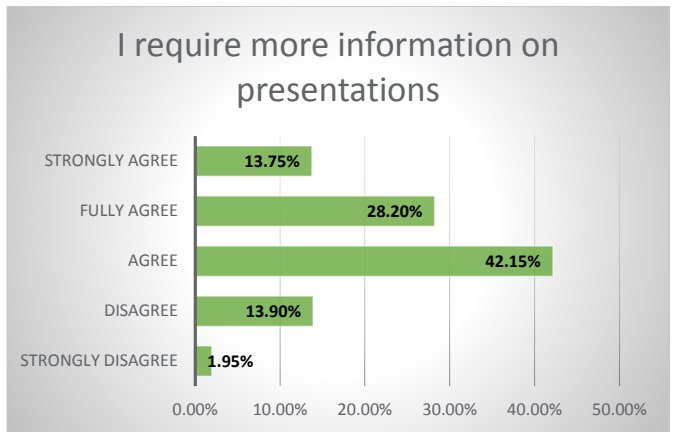




# QUANTITATIVE FEEDBACK FROM PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT OFFICIALS

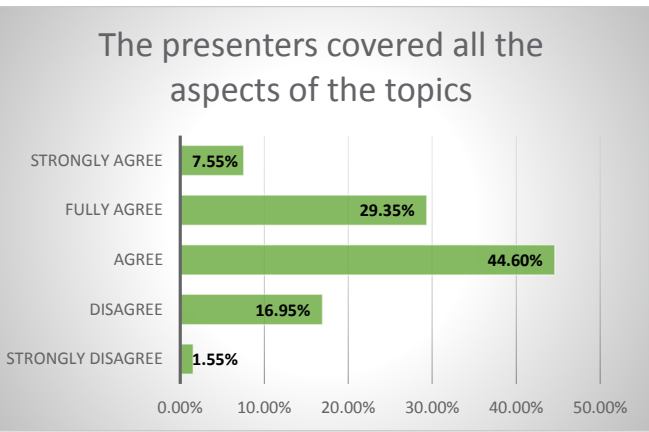
WESTERN CAPE  
MARCH 2018

## I require more information on presentations



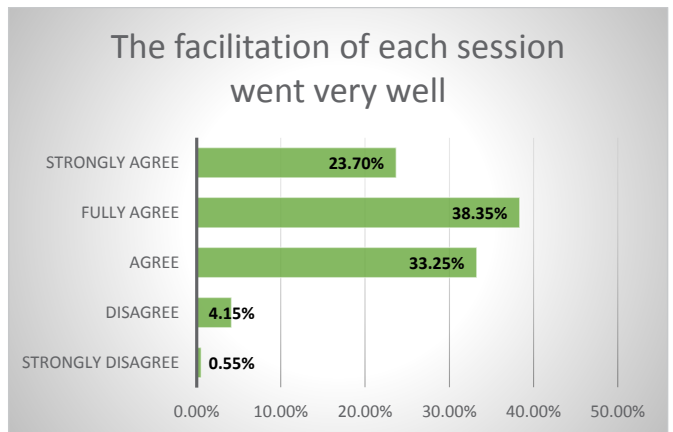
The graph above shows that 13.75% of officials strongly agreed that they require more information on presentations, whilst 28.20% of officials fully agreed and 42.15% of officials agreed. 13.90% and 1.95% of officials disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively that they require more information on presentations.

## The presenters covered all the aspects of the topics



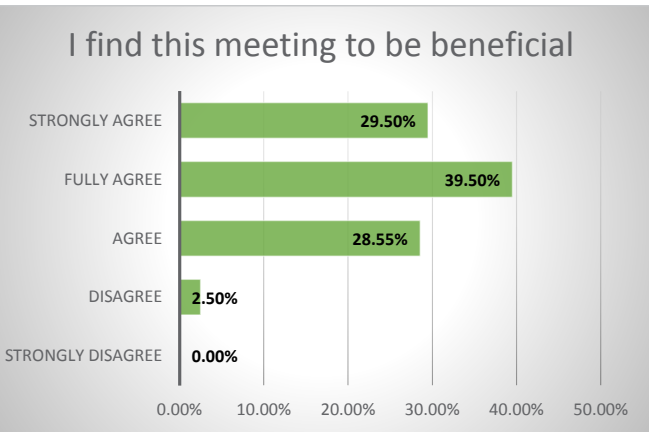
The graph above shows that 7.55% and 29.35% of officials strongly agreed and fully agreed respectively that the presenters covered all aspects of the topics whilst 44.60% of officials agreed. 16.95% and 1.55% of officials indicated that they disagree and strongly disagree respectively that the presenters covered all aspects of the topics.

## The facilitation of each session went very well



The graph above shows that 23.70% of officials strongly agreed that the facilitation of each session went very well, whilst 38.35% fully agreed and 33.25% agreed. 4.15% of officials disagreed that the facilitation of the session went very well whilst 0.55% strongly disagreed.

## I find this meeting to be beneficial



The graph above shows that 29.50% of officials strongly agreed that the meeting was beneficial, whilst 39.50% of officials fully agreed and 28.55% agreed. 2.50% of officials disagreed that the meeting was beneficial whilst 0% of officials strongly disagreed.



# PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD OF THE DG'S VISIT TO WESTERN CAPE







# PROVINCIAL ENGAGEMENTS

2018

NSC 2017

PIRLS 2016



Publication 8  
First Semester 2018  
Western Cape

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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