



**basic education**

Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**THUTO**



## NEWSLETTER

# Basic Education Department acts to eradicate inappropriate content from textbooks

The Department of Basic Education has noted concerns and complaints emanating from a page in one of the Grade 10 textbooks. The content referred to is both unintended and unfortunate.

To summarise the matter, it is a story about a girl who went out to a party with friends without seeking permission from her parents, as they would have declined the request. They drank and got drunk. While they were drunk, the friends pushed her into a room with an unknown male and locked the door where she was subsequently raped by the unknown male. Now she feels she can't report the rape to her parents because they will know that she lied. She is so hurt and scared as there are possibilities of contracting HIV, pregnancy or both. She is also regretting going to the party."

Three questions are posed to learners after this story. The problem is the first question, namely: *List two ways in which Angie's behaviour led to sexual intercourse.*

This question raises very serious misconceptions and stereotypes about "rape" and the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim, in that the victim might have played a role that led her to be raped. The department is fully aware of implications such scenarios have on the psyche of our children and the general public about the scourge of rape that the country is battling with. Furthermore, the question refers to the incident as "intercourse" which may further confuse learners. The importance of mediation by teachers in this instance becomes important as should be the case in a classroom environment.

We also acknowledge such content may further perpetuate impunity and victim blaming. The objective in a subject as important as Life Orientation is to equip learners with skills to deal with and face life's challenges; it is unfortunate that this particular section in the textbook is certainly not part of that.

The process of compiling such content includes a panel of experts who make inputs in line with set guidelines. This is followed by a review of the content by a subject specialist. The textbook in question, published and distributed in 2011 forms part of content that Minister Angie Motshekga has asked to be tested for inappropriate or contradictory content.

The evaluation process is conducted by subject specialists from provinces and districts, where the textbooks are subjected to a rigorous screening process. "We cannot at this stage blame the subject specialists that evaluated the material, we can however remedy the situation as we have done in the past with other material that was later found to have inappropriate content, i.e. a picture, misleading text, etc." said departmental spokesperson Elijah Mhlanga.

The Department has, in this regard, already written to the publisher in order to remedy this and to ensure that the material is no longer taught in our classrooms.

The Department welcomes inputs made by parents, the public, civic organisations and other interested parties into what learners are taught and exposed to in their learning material, this is truly reflective of the societal importance and significance of education. "We also encourage active, consistent critique of all teaching and learning material of all grades and subjects. It is through these engagements and contributions that we can achieve the best quality of content for the millions of children whose education we are entrusted with," Mhlanga added.

Lastly, the Minister has appointed a Task Team to further evaluate textbooks to ensure they are free of bias in terms of race, sex, gender and other forms of discrimination, and the task team will, at a later stage, make recommendations to the Minister.

The Task Team comprises of experts from Higher Education Institutes (HEIs). This Committee will look at a broad sample of textbooks, specifically for the development of a textbook policy on promoting content that fosters diversity going forward.



# DBE partners donate libraries as part of Mandela Day celebrations

*A reading Nation is a leading Nation*





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We call upon all South Africans to read to lead

[callcentre@dbe.gov.za](mailto:callcentre@dbe.gov.za) | call centre: 0800 202 933 | [www.education.gov.za](http://www.education.gov.za)

On Nelson Mandela International Day on 18 July 2016, Minister Angie Motshekga, together with AVBOB Group Chief Executive Officer, Mr Frik Rademan, handed over a library to Tlhasedi Primary School at Hebron in the North West Province in support of the *Read to Lead Campaign*. The partnership between the DBE and AVBOB commenced in 2014 with a mission of delivering 40 container libraries to disadvantaged schools across South Africa. Deputy Minister Enver Surty also handed over a mobile library, donated by Imperial Holdings and Ukhamba Community Development Trust, at the Model Primary School in Lenasia on 20 July 2016 in support of the commemoration of Nelson Mandela International Day, the *1000 Schools Libraries Campaign* and the *Read to Lead Campaign*.

The provision of libraries in public schools, particularly at primary school level, remains one of the most critical approaches aimed at encouraging early grade teaching in our schools. The Minister called upon parents to continue to play a pivotal role in ensuring that learners read on a daily basis. Minister Motshekga emphasised that adults should also develop a reading habit in order to encourage children to read.





# Deputy Minister Surty delivers new ASIDI school to Khutsong community in the North West Province

Basic Education Deputy Minister, Mr Enver Surty, officially handed over Motaung Primary School to the Khutsong community in the North West Province on 22 July 2016. Being built as part of the Accelerated School Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (ASIDI), the new school replaced the asbestos classrooms that placed learners in challenging learning conditions, especially when it rained.

Addressing Khutsong community members, Mr Surty said that the core mandate of the ASIDI was to restore the dignity of rural education. He said this would be done by eradicating all the inappropriate structures and replacing them with state of the art school buildings.

Through ASIDI the Department would provide water, sanitation and electricity to schools which didn't have these basic resources.

"To date, the ASIDI Programme has delivered over 136 state-of-the-art schools; another batch of 299 schools have been allocated to Implementing Agents (IAs); 571 schools have been provided with water; 410 given decent sanitation; and 294 connected to electricity," said Deputy Minister Surty.

The Deputy Minister encouraged parents, teachers and education stakeholders to collaborate to improve the level of literacy and numeracy in schools.

"There is a huge body of research that concludes that the main thrust of literacy development is the promotion of a school-wide reading culture which encourages learners to become engaged and motivated readers," he said.

The Department is currently steering the formation of Reading Clubs, Spelling Bee projects, as well as the Book Flood Campaign throughout the country.



# The Youth Citizens Action Programme National Championships held in Pretoria

Isibukosabasha Primary School took the top award in the annual Youth Citizenship Action Programme National Championships which recently took place in Pretoria.

The school from Dundee in KwaZulu-Natal won the first prize for their project on health and safety, which included making their school taxi transport safer, their kitchen more hygienically operational and for saving water by re-using handwashing water for other purposes.

Madibeng Primary School from the North West Province was in second place for their community literacy promotion project and Iphuteng Primary School from Alexandra Township in Gauteng finished in third place for their tutoring programme to improve academic performance at their school.

The Youth Citizens Action Programme (YCAP) National Championships took place from 22 to 24 July 2016, with the main event taking place on Saturday, 23 July 2016, at the Faircity Roodevallei Hotel in Pretoria, Gauteng.

“YCAP is an annual programme through which learners from primary and high schools across the country create projects aimed at addressing issues which they have identified in their schools and communities. These issues range from poor academic performance to drug abuse, teen pregnancy and road safety campaigns,” explains Amanda Blankfield-Koseff, Founder and CEO of Empowervate, which powers the YCAP Programme.

The aim of YCAP is to empower active citizens with the skills and confidence to make positive changes within their schools and communities instead of feeling hopeless and powerless. The award element is a source of motivation, which also serves to acknowledge the hard work participants put into their projects.

Deputy Director for Social Cohesion and Equity in Education, Ms Malebo Lefoka, said: “I hope that you, the learners did not only have a good time, but that you also benefited from the many intellectually stimulating exchanges that you were presented with. We appreciate the support and guidance offered by Empowervate. It is indeed a collaborative effort such as this one that ensures the success of education and making it a collective responsibility”.

The national secondary school YCAP winners were Lerato–Uthando Comprehensive School from Harrismith in the Free State. The school tackled the challenge of the provision of sanitary towels, which caused girls to drop out of school each month and fall behind in their academic performance. The school managed to obtain donations and succeeded in assisting 12 girls to return to school.

Northern Cape’s Postmasburg High School finished in second place for their self-esteem project and the Solomon Mahlangu High School from the Eastern Cape (2015 National Champions) took third place for their poverty alleviation project.

Prizes included tablets for the national winning teams. The top three teams received vouchers to attend short courses at Boston City Campus, as well as Ster-Kinekor movie vouchers and backpacks, a SpecCon’s Microsoft e-learning course for the whole school, and grant funds to expand their projects from the various sponsors.





# The DBE hosts Kha Ri Gude graduation ceremony in the KwaZulu-Natal Province

The Kha Ri Gude graduation ceremony took place in the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Province at the Durban City Hall on 14 July 2016 and at the Ithala Centre in Ulundi KZN on 15 July 2016. The Deputy Minister of Basic Education, Mr Enver Surty, and the Kha Ri Gude CEO, Dr Morongwa Ramarumo, attended the events.

The Kha Ri Gude campaign for mass literacy campaign enables adults to become literate and numerate in one of the eleven official languages.

In his address, Deputy Minister Surty mentioned that, “the majority of Kha Ri Gude learners did not have an opportunity to attend formal quality education during the Apartheid era when they were young. Through Kha Ri Gude, nearly 4.2 million adult learners have invested their time and energy in learning to read and write and to use numbers with insight.

In KZN, of the original target of 1,145,395 learners, 898,341 learners were educated working through the Quality Learning and Teaching Campaign (QLTC). Our adult learners who have completed Kha Ri Gude are registered on a National Learner Record Database by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA).

“I therefore request the Department of Higher Education and Training to absorb learners who are interested in furthering their studies in their Community Learning Centres for them to pursue Adult Education programmes,” said Deputy Minister Surty. He said he was pleased that the number of men enrolling for Kha Ri Gude had increased from 21% (in 2008) to 24% (in 2015).

The Kha Ri Gude graduation ceremony continued in Ulundi on 15 July 2016 where the Director for QLTC, Mr Thula Nkomo, presented the awards to the courageous men and women who did not let their age keep them from furthering their studies to becoming literate. Mr Nkomo thanked the Provincial Kha Ri Gude representatives for the hard work and long hours they invested in educating adult learners. He also urged them to remain committed to continue their assistance to, and involvement in the community.



# The CEO of the Joint Education Trust meets with the National Commission for UNESCO



Dr James Keevy, the CEO of the Joint Education Trust (JET), met with the South African National Commission for UNESCO Secretariat on 26 July 2016, to brief the Office about the work JET is doing for UNESCO offices globally. JET was set up in 1992 by a remarkable partnership of leaders from South Africa's corporate world, major political parties (ANC, PAC, AZAPO and IFP), trade unions and representative organisations of black business.

JET was appointed as a UNESCO-UNEVOC Centre in October 2013, as per the endorsement of the South African National Commission for UNESCO Secretariat; and the organisation has a close relationship with the Durban University of Technology (DUT) which is the other UNEVOC Centre in South Africa. The UNEVOC Network is a global platform for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). JET is currently engaged in developing a publication for UNESCO to reflect the status of the national qualifications frameworks (NQFs)

in each of the 15 member states of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). JET conducted a study in December 2015 to provide UNESCO's Regional Office for Southern Africa (ROSA) with a desktop review of existing applications, both explicit and implicit, and the different understandings of Global Citizenship Education (GCED) among nine UNESCO member states in Southern Africa.

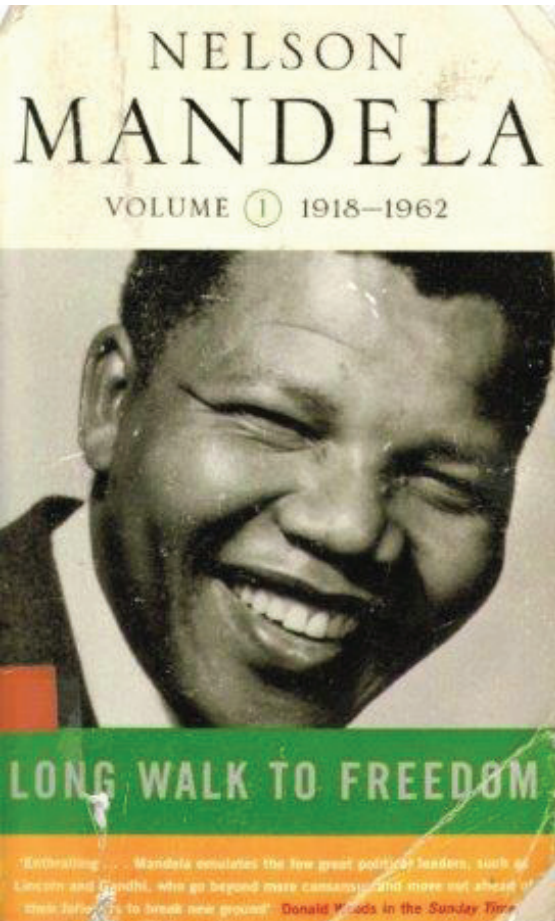
JET has also been working closely with the UNESCO TVET office in Paris on the development of a set of world reference levels. This innovative project involved all regions of the world and has started with an attempt to clarify the use of knowledge, skills and competencies in the broader international discourse. The South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) is also part of this process. The Secretary-General of the South African National Commission for UNESCO, Mr Carlton Lufuno Mukwevho, has called for a close working relationship between JET and the National Commission. The research has been published by UNESCO and can be found at:

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002428/242887e.pdf>.



# Information Resource Centre (IRC) Review

The IRC is commemorating Madiba Month during the month of July by featuring the following books:



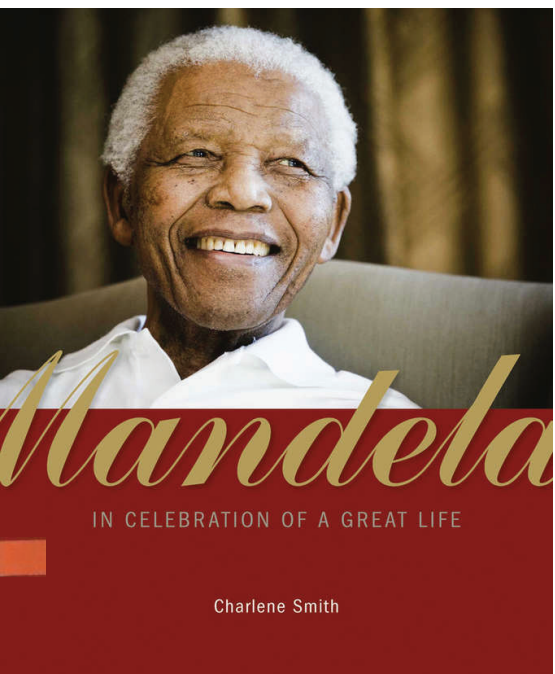
## A Long Walk to Freedom: Early Years, 1918-1962 v. 1

**Author:** Mandela, N

**Dewey number:** 920 MAN

**Reviewed by:** Nkuna Nobuhle

The riveting memoirs of the outstanding moral and political leader of our time, *Long Walk to Freedom*, brilliantly recreates the drama of the experiences that helped shape Nelson Mandela's destiny. From his birth in the Transkei to his incarceration at Robben Island, this is the remarkable story of how a man journeyed so far, only to be sentenced to life imprisonment. Emotive and compelling, this is the story of an epic life, which burns with the luminosity of faith in the invincible nature of human hope and dignity.



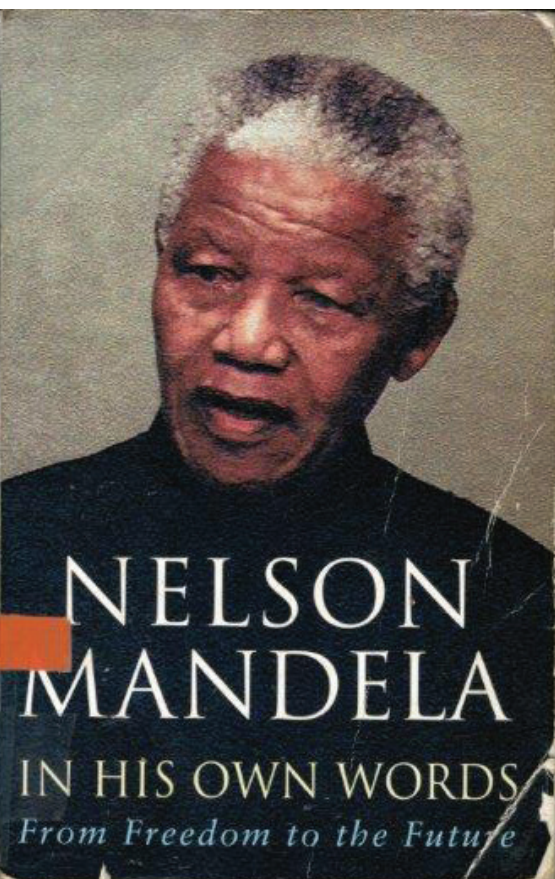
## Mandela: In Celebration of a Great Life

**Author:** Smith, C

**Dewey number:** 920 MAN

**Reviewed by:** Nkuna Nobuhle

This book describes the tremendous challenges faced by Nelson Mandela and those who followed him, in trying to heal his beloved land. It depicts the gentle statesman who was never too busy to stop and listen to a child. Every person who has met Mandela has felt his special *Madiba magic*. The authoritative text presents Mandela the husband, father, prisoner, politician and leading light of his country and it is beautifully illustrated with photographs throughout: a photographic keepsake of one of the world's most charismatic and influential statesmen that everyone will enjoy.



## In His Own Words: From Freedom to the Future

**Author:** Mandela, N

**Dewey number:** 920 MAN

**Reviewed by:** Nkuna Nobuhle

*In His Own Words* is a selection of Nelson Mandela's speeches, providing a lively, memorable profile of his lifelong commitment to freedom and reconciliation, democracy, and the flourishing of all the people of South Africa, Africa and the world. Arranged thematically, each section of speeches is introduced by a leading figure, such as Kofi Annan and Desmond Tutu. In these introductory essays, the authors pay tribute to Nelson Mandela's achievements, animating their accounts with personal memories, stories and reflections. Covering a range of topics of our times - struggle and reconciliation, freedom, religion and nation building, culture, education and health, children and development - the book also features Mandela's own tributes to South African heroes such as Steve Biko, Oliver Tambo and Walter Sisulu.

# Join the Big Walk on National Recreation Day



Sport and Recreation South Africa (SRSA) is an affiliate member of The Association for International Sport for All (TAFISA), an international mass participation organisation operating under the auspices of the United Nations and the International Olympic Committee. TAFISA encourages and lobbies countries to walk by creating advocacy and awareness, and in 1999, the organisation resolved that October is declared walking month across the world.

A Cabinet Memorandum, which was tabled in December 2014, declared the first Friday of October as National Recreation Day. SRSA has, therefore planned various activities and programmes on active recreation to take place across the country throughout the month of October. The highlight is the annual *Big Walk*. The main objectives of the *Big Walk* are to promote healthy lifestyles and physical activity; to promote social cohesion; to enhance co-operation between government departments and all other institutions and stakeholders; and to provide opportunity for social contact and development.

The *Big Walk* will be taking place on 02 October 2016 at Fountains Valley Resort in Tshwane. Key activities of the day will be as follows:

- Walk: 15km, 10km and 5km
- Aerobics and Taebo
- Kiddies entertainment corner
- Exhibitions

Join in the fun and register! Registrations are free of charge and will be open from 04 July to 19 August 2016. Visit: <http://www.thebigwalk.co.za/events/2016-big-walk/> for more information.

Departmental officials can contact the DBE co-ordinators: Mr Bongani Zondi at Tel.: 012 357 3447, Ms Boitumelo Madie at Tel.: 012 357 3380 and Ms Phindile Skhosana at Tel.: 012 257 3213 for additional information.



# Be prepared for the 03 August 2016 Local Government Elections



The Election Day has been declared a public holiday. The voting hours on 03 August 2016 will be from 07:00 to 19:00. We urge all voters to vote early. We also urge all employers whose operations are functional on public holidays to make the necessary arrangements for their employees to go and vote. All voters, party agents and observers are reminded that weapons are not allowed at voting stations, and that voters that can only use their Green bar coded ID Book or Smart card ID or the

Temporary Identity Certificate (TIC) to vote. The IEC has achieved a considerable improvement of voting station infrastructure due to the partnership with provincial government to ensure that there will be drinking water at all voting stations; that temporary lighting will be provided where the voting station has no lighting; and that sanitation and mobile sanitation is provided where necessary.

## Regional Round-up

### Western Cape Province



The Western Cape Provincial Education Department (WCED) has sent a circular to schools to remind them that the Department will take strict disciplinary action against employees who administer corporal punishment or who assault learners. MEC Debbie Schäfer says that the Department views incidents of corporal punishment in a very serious light. In terms of the SA Schools Act, and according to Stats SA, figures show that, for six provinces for the period 2009 to 2012, the Western Cape Province had the lowest incidence of corporal punishment in the country at 4.5%.

The WCED charged 160 teachers with assault, mainly corporal punishment, during the 2013/15 financial year, 204 in 2014/15 and 222 in 2015/16. The Department recently completed a roadshow in all districts, which also included a discussion on corporal punishment with principals. “We take note of these very serious concerns and we are considering ways in which to address these situations without infringing on the rights of the learner, but at the same time, protecting our staff. In this regard, we call on parents to take responsibility for instilling respect and discipline in their children,” said the MEC.

### North West Province



North West Education and Sport Development MEC, Sello Lehari, has condemned the recent burning of a mobile classroom at Reitshokile Primary School in Piet Plessis near Stella. A mob carrying sticks and stones disrupted learning and teaching on the day, allegedly demanding a tarred road for the community. The school reported that, after the mob forcefully gained access to the school premises, they forcefully removed learners and teachers from classrooms before setting the mobile classroom alight.

# Upcoming Events

- 29 July 2016: Kha Ri Gude Graduation Ceremony will be taking place in Matlosane, North West Province
- 29 July 2016: The official hand-over of Toevlug Primary School in Ventersdorp, North West Province
- 01 August 2016: The official hand-over of Loding Primary School in Loding Village, Mpumalanga Province
- 09 August 2016: National Women’s Day
- 18 August 2016: The iNkosi Albert Luthuli Competition KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Rounds
- 19 August 2016: 2016 Amended Senior Certificate Examination results will be made available to candidates who wrote at schools/registered examination centres in centralised areas
- 20 August 2016: The iNkosi Albert Luthuli Competition Gauteng Provincial Rounds
- 22 August 2016: 2016 Amended Senior Certificate Examination results will be made available to candidates who wrote at schools/registered examination centres located in remote areas
- 25 – 26 August 2016: Minister meets with District Directors in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 31 August 2016: The iNkosi Albert Luthuli Competition Eastern Cape Provincial Rounds
- 01 – 22 September 2016: The Provincial Rounds of the Sixth National School Moot Court Competition
- 03 September 2016: The iNkosi Albert Luthuli Competition Northern Cape Provincial Rounds
- 03 September 2016: The iNkosi Albert Luthuli Competition Western Cape Provincial Rounds
- 09 September 2016: The iNkosi Albert Luthuli Competition Free State Provincial Rounds
- 10 September 2016: The iNkosi Albert Luthuli Competition North West Provincial Rounds
- 24 September 2016: Heritage Day
- October 2016: Teacher Appreciation Month
- 01 – 02 October 2016: iNkosi Albert Luthuli Oral History Programme and Gala Dinner
- 03 – 07 October 2016: Heritage Education Schools Outreach Programme, North West Province
- 05 – 08 October 2016: Sixth National School Moot Court Competition
- 05 October 2016: World Teachers’ Day