



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



NEWSLETTER

Minister Motshekga and Deputy Minister Surty to meet with District Directors

Minister Angie Motshekga and Deputy Minister Enver Surty will be meeting with District Directors at the Department of Basic Education (DBE) in Pretoria on 25 and 26 August 2016. The focus of the two-day session is to monitor the basic education sector's progress towards improved learner performance towards the end of the 2016 Academic Year, under the theme: *Measuring the impact of our interventions*. These quarterly discussions with District Directors are facilitated by the Planning and Delivery Oversight Branch under the leadership of Mrs Palesa Tyobeka and are attended by all District Directors from across the country, as well as senior managers from the nine provinces.

Director-General of Basic Education, Mr Mathanzima Mveli, will provide an overview of progress made with the implementation of the *National Development Plan 2030* (NDP). Guest presenters will include Mr Godwin Khosa, CEO of the National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT); and representatives from the Education Management Information System (EMIS) Directorate and district officials who will present progress on the Data Driven Districts Project with initial lessons learnt and an accompanying case study successfully addressed through the application of the toolsets implemented.

Deputy Directors-General from the DBE will be in attendance to provide Branch updates on key policies and programmes whilst senior provincial managers will present on their readiness to deliver improved results at the end of 2016.



Mziwexolo Primary School officially handed over to the Qumbu community



Set on a stunning escarpment and built at a cost of R20 million, Mziwexolo Primary School in the Eastern Cape was officially handed over to the community of the Mkhosi Village in Ntabankulu, Qumbu, by the Eastern Cape Education Portfolio Committee Chairperson, Mr Fundile Gade, on 12 August 2016. The state-of-the-art school mirrors the infrastructure upgrades currently taking place in the area, including the upgrade of the main road leading to the school from the N2, some 30 km away.

The Accelerated Schools Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (ASIDI) empowers learners as their schools, previously built from inappropriate material, are upgraded to restore dignity to rural education. The school is equipped with a Grade R centre that lays a solid foundation for learners, a nutrition centre where children are fed on a daily basis, science laboratories that turn science from theory into practice, a media centre that brings the global horizon closer to the classroom and administration blocks where educators and principals can work in dignity.

The Environmental Education Association of Southern Africa (EEASA) pays a courtesy call to the South African National Commission for UNESCO



The South African National Commission for UNESCO recently received a courtesy call from Ms Shanu Misser of the Environmental Education Association of Southern Africa (EEASA), seeking UNESCO support for her organisation's Annual Conference scheduled to take place from 03 to 06 October 2016, in Gauteng.

The forum is an important annual event for environmental learning and education for sustainable development in Southern Africa. The Conference has, over the years, proved to be a vital platform for practitioners, officials and funders from Africa and beyond to share ideas, reflect on their practices, extend their frameworks and networks; and strengthen environmental education initiatives within and between their respective countries.

The Conference presents an ideal opportunity for all practitioners of environmental education to showcase and open up for discussion their projects, programmes and practices with regional and international partners and highlight the importance of sustained support to institutions and agencies in South Africa, including local, provincial and National Government.

Ensuring safety in South African schools



The DBE takes school safety very seriously and the Department has therefore put in place various policies and measures to ensure the safety of all learners, educators and relevant stakeholders in schools. The Department reiterates that there is no place for violence, drug abuse, sexual harassment and other criminal acts in schools as it poses a serious barrier to learning. Learners become victims of school violence because it takes place in the classroom or on the school grounds. When violence occurs at schools it negatively affects learning and teaching and learners become vulnerable. Learners who experience or witness incidents of violence may become depressed and this may negatively affect their ability to advance academically. School violence may also have negative implications for learner retention and contribute to increased drop-out rates.

The Director for School Safety, Mr Paseka Njobe, said that the Department has a solid partnership with the South African Police Service (SAPS) which is aimed at linking schools with their local police stations; and that functional School Safety Committees and other social crime prevention strategies and programmes are in place. “Schools are critical in instilling discipline and ensuring safety, thus the emphasis on the *Codes of Conduct for Learners* at all public schools. Schools are therefore directly

responsible for providing an environment conducive to the delivery of quality teaching and learning by, among other things, promoting the rights and safety of all learners and teachers. It is important for parents and communities to actively participate in addressing and promoting school safety. Parents and communities are well positioned to see to it that children are safe wherever they are. The Department will continue in earnest to protect the rights of all children in schools. The success of these efforts rely largely on the collective efforts of parents and communities to work together with schools to ensure that all children are safe and realise their full academic potential,” concluded Mr Njobe.

The *National School Safety Framework* has been developed to serve as a management tool for provincial and district officials responsible for school safety, school principals, School Governing Body members, teachers and learners to identify and manage risks and threats of violence in and around schools and, in terms of the *Regulations for Safety Measures at all Public Schools*, the Minister has declared all public schools as drug and dangerous weapon free zones.

For more information please click on the below link:

<http://www.education.gov.za/Programmes/SafetyinSchools.aspx>

Bullying seriously affects the psycho-social welfare of learners



School bullying occurs either inside or outside of school. Bullying can be physical, verbal, or emotional and is usually repeated over a period of time. In schools, bullying can occur in nearly any part of the school grounds; and more often occurs during school breaks, in hallways, bathrooms, on school buses, in classes that require group work and/or after school activities. Bullying in school sometimes consists of a group of learners taking advantage of, or isolating, one learner in particular and gaining the loyalty of bystanders who want to avoid becoming the next victim.

A new poll conducted by UNICEF and their partners shows that more than nine out of ten young people believe bullying is a pervasive problem in their communities, and two-thirds say they have experienced bullying first. The poll was conducted through a global U-Report, a rapidly growing youth engagement tool that provides a platform for over 2 million young U-Reporters from more than 20 countries. Through the poll, young people were asked a series of questions relating to the impact of bullying in their community, their own personal experiences of bullying and what

they think can be done to end this type of violence via SMS, Facebook and Twitter.

“Bullying, including online bullying, remains a largely misunderstood risk to the wellbeing of children and young people. To end this type of violence, we must improve public awareness of the harmful impact of bullying, equip teachers, parents and peers with the skills to identify risks and report incidents; and provide care and protection for victims,” said UNICEF’s Senior Adviser on Child Protection, Ms Theresa Kilbane.

Click on the below link to view the anti-bullying message from Ms Zolani Mahola, South African actress and lead singer of the South African music group Freshly Ground:

<http://www.education.gov.za/Programmes/SafetyinSchools.aspx>

Supporting school principals to monitor and use the resources provided through the MST Grant

The Maths, Science and Technology (MST) Conditional Grant Unit is currently conducting meetings with principals of the schools that are supported by the grant. The purpose of these meetings with principals is to familiarise them with the goal, impact and purpose; procurement procedures; roles and responsibilities; and reporting mechanisms related to the implementation of the grant. In addition to the above, the meetings are also designed to support schools in the efficient and meaningful utilisation of the resources supplied to them.

Meetings have taken place in Vryburg, Klerksdorp, Mafikeng and Rustenburg in the North West Province and at the Cape Teaching and Learning Institute (CTLI) in Kuils River in the Western Cape Province between July and August 2016. A total of 142 school principals attended these orientation meetings where they were also supplied with planning and reporting templates, including the minimum specifications for the procurement of resources for Maths, Science and Technology subjects.

Mr Enoch Mchiza, who is the Grant Manager from the DBE, indicated that all school principals are appreciative of the support provided by the grant. However, it has been noted that the utilisation of the resources by schools is not adequate and Mr Mchiza is concerned about the continuing provision of resources such as Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to schools without the full adoption and utilisation thereof by teachers; as teachers are the main players in the pursuit for improvement of learning and teaching in the classroom.



Tales Untold: The thorny issue of women empowerment by Dr Phumzile Langa



“The issue of women empowerment is deeply personal to me. The challenge that we face as women today is attitudes and beliefs about our status in society. I truly believe that the change of attitude should start in our homes with the relationship between parents and their daughters and their willingness to invest in the education of their girl children. My work experience has afforded me the opportunity to educate rural communities on the importance of girls’ education and how this can benefit the status of the home and empower women.

I was born in KwaMashu, a township on the outskirts of Durban, a daughter of a bus driver and a nurse. In a time when it was not a priority to educate girls beyond secondary school, I was lucky to have had parents who defied the status quo by valuing, encouraging and investing in the education of their five girls. The qualities of high self-esteem and a daring attitude were inculcated in me from a very young age. These attributes were very handy in both my academic and my professional journey as a woman.

My professional journey began in 1995 in a rural school in Ndwedwe where I was a History and English teacher. In 2000, I left the country and travelled to London to work as a History teacher. This was a big professional leap for someone who went to township schools, studied at a predominantly black university, and had only taught in a rural school. The four years spent in England gave me an opportunity to meet

people from all over the world and experience different cultures. I used this opportunity to explore Europe and travelled to countries like France, Germany, Switzerland and Holland.

In 2005, I returned to South Africa and returned to the teaching profession, and later graduated with a MEd in Curriculum Studies. I was later appointed as a principal of an underperforming rural secondary school with severe disciplinary issues. The first year was very challenging for me as a woman principal in a community that was patriarchal in nature. Through hard work, dedication and team work, I managed to turn the school around. In my tenure the school received several awards, including Best Performing School. Whilst working as a school principal, I held various professional leadership positions, including chairperson of the Female Principals’ Support Programme, a programme which was launched by the Minister of Basic Education in 2013. Leading this programme gave me an opportunity to use my academic and professional expertise to empower my fellow female principals.

My greatest academic achievement was obtaining my doctoral degree. In 2010, I was awarded a Mellon Foundation Scholarship to pursue my PhD studies at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN). I conducted an in-depth study exploring school underperformance in the context of rurality. It was very challenging to study part time whilst holding two jobs as a principal and as a part time lecturer in the Leadership, Management and Policy Department at UKZN. However, I managed to pass my PhD in record time. Upon graduating in 2013, I was awarded membership of the Golden Key International Honour Society. When the opportunity availed itself for me to lead the Rural Education Directorate I grabbed it with both hands as it is a chance for me to develop programmes that will empower young children in rural areas, especially girls. My belief is that, if we educate our girls and raise them to believe in themselves, there is a strong chance that they will be able to stand up against women abuse and women discrimination. Most importantly, their success stories will change attitudes and beliefs about the role and the status of women in our country. This is even more important in rural areas where there is still a big challenge in educating a girl child.”

Commemorating World Humanitarian Day on 19 August 2016

Humanitarian aid workers stand on the front lines of war and disaster, braving tremendous dangers and difficulties to deliver assistance to those who need it on a daily basis. World Humanitarian Day (WHD), which takes place annually on 19 August, recognises the aid workers who risk their lives in humanitarian service, and mobilises people to advocate for humanitarian action. This World Humanitarian Day, the United Nations and its partners are calling for global solidarity with the more than 130 million people around the world who need humanitarian assistance to survive. Under the theme of *One Humanity*, World Humanitarian Day will highlight how the world came together in Istanbul for the World Humanitarian Summit earlier this year, and made commitments to support people affected by crisis and ensure that aid workers can safely and more effectively deliver to those in need. As South Africans we are aware of the high price that was paid for the attainment of freedom in the liberation struggle, and are encouraged to support WHD and to work towards social cohesion within the country.

Regional Roundup

KwaZulu-Natal



KwaZulu-Natal parents have until the end of October 2016 to apply for admission for their children for the 2017 academic year. The Provincial Department of Education advised parents to collect their admission forms from schools closest to their residence or place of employment. These forms should be returned to the relevant school before the closing date of 31 October 2016.

Upcoming Events

- 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
- 19 August 2016: ASIDI hand-over of Gwenteshe Primary School, Dutywa, in the Eastern Cape Province
- 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
- 26 August 2016: ASIDI hand-over of Lower Ngcolokeni Primary School, Qumbu, in the Eastern Cape Province
- 27 August 2016: DBE to commemorate the 60 year anniversary of the 1956 Women's March in Welkom in the Free State 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
- 02 September 2016: ASIDI hand-over of Mhala Primary School, Dutywa, in the Eastern Cape Province
- 03 September 2016: The iNkosi Albert Luthuli Competition Northern Cape Provincial Rounds
- 03 September 2016: The iNkosi Albert Luthuli Competition Western Cape Provincial Rounds
- 08 September 2016: International Literacy Day
- 09 September 2016: ASIDI hand-over of Zamilizwe Primary School, Qumbu, in the Eastern Cape Province
- 09 September 2016: The iNkosi Albert Luthuli Competition Free State Provincial Rounds
- 10 September 2016: The iNkosi Albert Luthuli Competition North West Provincial Rounds
- 21 September 2016: A meeting on Reading Matters will be taking place at the DBE in Pretoria
- 23 September 2016: ASIDI hand-over of Ndakana Primary School, Qumbu, in the Eastern Cape Province
- 24 September 2016: Heritage Day
- October 2016: Teacher Appreciation Month
- 01 – 02 October 2016: iNkosi Albert Luthuli Oral History Programme and Gala Dinner
- 03 – 04 October 2016: The Transnet Rural and Farm Schools National Tournament will be taking place at Germiston Stadium, in the Gauteng Province
- 03 – 07 October 2016: Heritage Education Schools Outreach Programme, North West Province
- 04 – 08 October 2016: The Sanlam Kay Motsepe Schools Cup National Championship will be taking place in Johannesburg in the Gauteng Province
- 05 – 08 October 2016: Sixth National School Moot Court Competition
- 05 October 2016: World Teachers' Day
- 10 – 16 December 2016: The South African Schools National Championships (Summer Games) will be taking place at Wits University in Johannesburg