



basic education

Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



## NEWSLETTER

# DBE wins UNESCO International Literacy Award for Kha Ri Gude Mass Literacy Campaign



## LITERACY CAMPAIGN SOUTH AFRICA

The Department of Basic Education (DBE) is proud to announce that it has been awarded a UNESCO International Literacy Award. The 2016 UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy is for the department's Kha Ri Gude Mass Literacy Campaign and was handed-over during a UNESCO ceremony in Paris today.

The Kha Ri Gude mass literacy campaign was launched in 2008 to fulfil the ambitions of the Freedom Charter. The campaign recruits volunteers who make up the thousands of community-based coordinators, supervisors and educators that are engaged to run the literacy courses every year since the inception of the campaign. The volunteers teach at community-based learning centres across the country as well as in informal venues such as backyards, local churches and even bus-shelters.

To date the campaign has touched 4.7 million people across the country and focuses on basic literacy and numeracy skills for people who were never afforded the opportunity to learn to read and write.

The UNESCO Jury appreciated the Kha Ri Gude programme for its well-developed mass literacy campaign that applied scientific research on how illiterate adults read. The panel found it impressive that since its inception in 2008, the programme had taught urban and rural based adults in 11 official languages including Braille and to date it has reached 4.7 million South Africans, mostly women.

Since 1967, UNESCO has awarded International Literacy Prizes to outstanding and innovative programmes that promote literacy, and this year UNESCO awards laureates from around the world under the theme: *Innovation in Literacy*.

The Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga, was represented by the South African Ambassador to France and Permanent Representative to UNESCO, HE Mr. Rapulane Molekane, who received the award on behalf of the Department and the South African Government.

The Department of Basic Education is proud of all those who have been involved in Kha Ri Gude over the past eight years, and this award is testament to the hard work and dedication of the officials as well as the volunteers and participants of the Kha Ri Gude Mass Literacy Campaign.



# Reading Indaba scheduled to highlight the importance of reading



During May 2014, reading promotion was identified as one of the key deliverables of the DBE, and a Reading Promotion Plan was subsequently developed and approved by the Council of Education Ministers (CEM) and the Heads of Education Committee (HEDCOM).

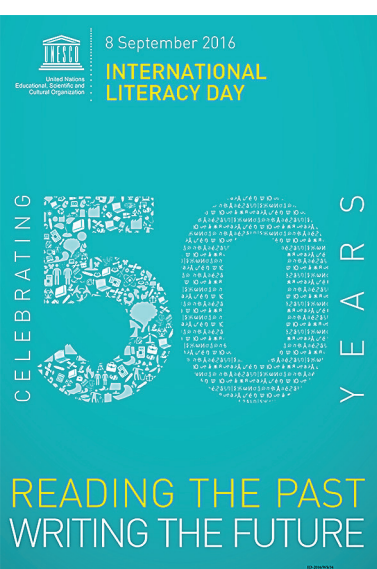
Members of the External Advisory Reading Office were subsequently appointed by the Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga, and a Reading Indaba will be taking place at the DBE in Pretoria on 21 September 2016 for their first Committee meeting to convene. The aim of the Indaba is to discuss the roles and responsibilities, the structure, operations and the frequency of these meetings and for the Committee to meet with Provincial Curriculum Directors to pave the way forward for the sector. Presentations will also be made on current reading research reports. The Committee will focus on reading projects that

impact on Grades R to 12, as well as global reading research projects and collaboration with social partners. The Reading Indaba will be chaired by Mr Suren Govender, Chief Director for Curriculum Implementation and Monitoring.

The Ministerial *Read to Lead Campaign* was officially launched on 22 July 2015 and will continue over the next four years until 2019. The focus of the Campaign is to encourage all South Africans to read, to improve the reading abilities of all South African children and to ensure that all learners are able to demonstrate age appropriate levels of reading by 2019. Reading is a foundational skill on which all other learning is built and creates the opportunity for access to career opportunities and for individuals to effectively participate in a democracy.



## Read to Lead on International Literacy Day



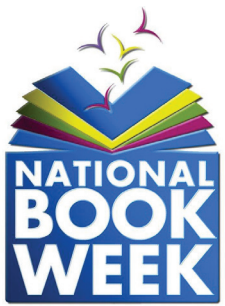
The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) proclaimed 08 September as International Literacy Day on 17 November 1965 with the aim to highlight the importance of literacy for individuals, communities and societies. On International Literacy Day each year, UNESCO reminds the international community of the importance of literacy and adult learning globally. As part of International Literacy Day 2016, the DBE will promote the *Read to Lead Campaign* in South Africa in collaboration with UNESCO, the Eastern Cape Provincial Department of Education and the Eastern Cape English Educators' Association, under the theme: *a reading nation in a leading nation*. The event will take place in Mt Frere on 08 September 2016. The activities for the day will include reading competitions and awards for learners to motivate them to embrace a culture of reading for academic advancement, as well as for pleasure.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of International Literacy Day and UNESCO is celebrating it under the banner *Reading the Past, Writing the Future*. International Literacy Day 2016 celebrates and honours the past

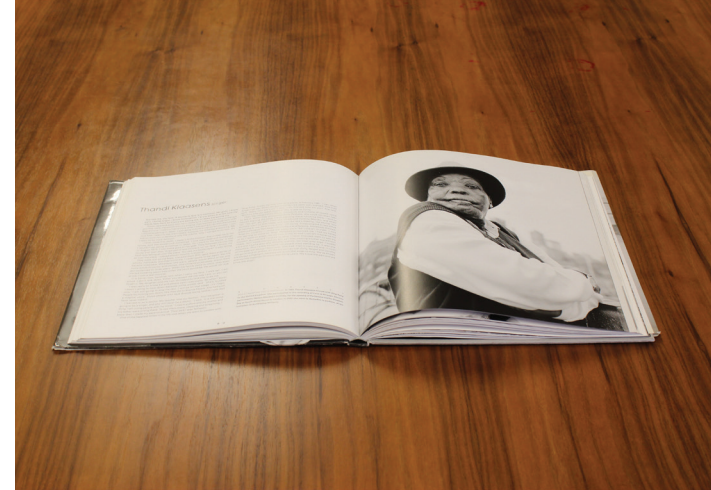
five decades of national and international engagement, efforts and progress made to increase literacy rates around the world. It also addresses current challenges and looks to innovative solutions to further boost literacy in the future. Literacy is a basic human right and a means of personal and social development - it makes an essential contribution to a wide variety of goals such as maintaining peace and promoting democracy. This important day is celebrated in South Africa as part of National Book Week, which is taking place from 05 to 11 September 2016.



# National Book Week – appreciating the value of books and reading



South Africa commemorates National Book Week from 05 to 11 September 2016. National Book Week is an initiative of the South African Book Development Council (SABDC) in collaboration with the Department of Arts and Culture (DAC). Reading statistics report that only 14% of the South African population are active book readers, and a mere 5% of parents read to their children. National Book Week is an important initiative in encouraging the nation to value reading as a fun and pleasurable activity, and to showcase how reading can easily be incorporated into one's daily lifestyle. The commemoration coincides with International Literacy Day on 08 September 2016.



## Count down to DBE National Spelling Bee Championships



The National Spelling Bee Championship Provincial Rounds are currently underway in all nine provinces, targeting learners in the Intermediate Phase (Grades 4 to 6). This will be followed by the National Final Championship Rounds on 01 October 2016 at the ZK Matthews Hall at the University of South Africa (UNISA) in Pretoria. The Spelling Bee was initiated in 2014 to assist intermediate phase learners to improve their English literacy levels. Since its inception, the championship has seen thousands of learners participating, however, only the top three spellers from each province qualify to take part in the National Final Championship Rounds.

The initiative also plays a pivotal role in promoting a passion for reading amongst South African learners in the Foundation and Intermediate Phases. This popular concept has spread from its early roots in the United States of America, 90 years ago, to hundreds of countries across the world and has become a great approach to combining edutainment with the aim of achieving real targets set out to improve the unsatisfactory literacy levels amongst our youth.

Schools that emerged as the 2015 National Champions during the final rounds of the National Spelling Bee Championship were Greenfield Primary School from the Western Cape Province; Pioneer Primary School from the Gauteng Province; and Dikolobe Primary School from the Limpopo Province. The true strength of the National Spelling Bee Championship lies in every learner being given a chance to participate from classroom level up to the highest level possible in the competition, according to his or her capability. The 2016 National Spelling Bee Championship has been made possible through the DBE's partnerships with UNISA, SABC Education, the AVBOB Foundation and Monash University. For the highlights of the 2015 Championships, click on the below link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mWJnR8U8vs8>





# 2016 National Heritage Education Schools Outreach Programme promotes our African heritage



The 2016 National Heritage Education Outreach Programme (HESOP) and national camp will be taking place from 03 October 2016 to 07 October 2016 in the North West Province. The National Heritage Council (NHC), in partnership with the South African National Parks (SANParks) and the DBE, has been hosting the Heritage Education Outreach Programme for the past eight years. The programme is presented in a competition format and runs from district and provincial levels, to the culmination of the national event.

The NHC is a statutory body under the Department of Arts and Culture. Its mission is to transform, protect and promote South African heritage for sustainable development, focusing more on the Intangible Cultural Heritage. The NHC therefore celebrates heritage by supporting programmes that promote social cohesion, national identity and nation building. The programme also aims to create a vision of a nation proud of its African heritage, inculcate values embedded in the *Freedom Charter* and to educate the learners on the significant role played by the liberation icons.

HESOP continues to be one of the main strategic platforms available where learners engage in experiential learning on the many facets of national heritage. The programme compliments the current curriculum in terms of the Heritage subject area and is open to learners from Grades 8 to 11 as a means to orientate them on the various career paths and potential funders of the different professions and scholarships in heritage programmes.



# The Quality Learning and Teaching Campaign focusses on the cascading model



ensuring quality learning and teaching for all

*Development*. The Provincial QLTC team has in turn been mandated by the MEC and HOD to spearhead this directive to ensure that all stakeholders pull together in one direction under the theme: *Saamtrek; Saamwerk*.

## North West cascading model

In striving to implement the QLTC in the North West Province, a cascading model has been adopted where structures have been established and strengthened at school level for optimal impact. Since 2013 a model of sampling schools was initiated for the effective training of all stakeholders over a three day period from Fridays to Sundays, to ensure the successful management and co-ordinated establishment of QLTC structures at school level. In order to ensure that the campaign's effectiveness is reflected across the system, 120 schools have been selected to focus on establishing and strengthening the QLTC across the Province.

Other stakeholders that are invited to these training sessions include LoveLife Trust, Community Development Workers (CDWs), the South African Police Services (SAPS), community leaders and religious leaders. These stakeholders make use of these opportunities to share and commit to the role that they can play, in partnership with schools, to improve learner performance. QLTC champion schools also share their respective best practices with other schools in order to allow everyone to benefit from what has been learnt through the campaign. Through implementing the lessons that have been imparted, there has been an improvement in learner and teacher late-coming and absenteeism; learner performance; parents are now also involved in monitoring their children's work at home; and there has been a decline in social ills such as drug abuse, learner pregnancy and vandalism of schools.

Other QLTC programmes in the North West Province include community reflection meetings and accountability sessions; the training of newly elected SGBs and principals; the adoption of underperforming schools in line with the National Economic Development and Labour Council (*NEDLAC Accord on basic education*) and partnerships with schools; the Plough Back Initiative, which includes cleaning up campaigns; the signing of pledges by Grade 12 learners and their parents to commit to perform in line with the North West Province's target of 82% in 2016; the Read to Lead Campaign; and the mobilisation of communities to participate in the Kha Ri Gude Mass Literacy Campaign.





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



The South African National Commission for UNESCO recently received a courtesy call from Ms Shanu Misser from 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.

This conference is an important annual event for environmental learning and education for sustainable development in Southern Africa and has, over the years, proved to be a vital forum 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 discuss their projects, programmes and practices with regional and international partners and highlight the importance of sustained support for this work to institutions and agencies in South Africa, including local, provincial and national government.

## Commemorating 30 Years of Selfless Service and Dedication to the People of Southern Africa

The 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the aeroplane crash that claimed the life of Mozambican President, Samora Moises Machel and 34 of his countrymen and women, including pilots and journalists. In remembrance of this tragic day, the South African Government, in collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Mozambique, will host the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorations at the crash site in Mbuzini, Mpumalanga Province on 19 October 2016. The Department of Arts and Culture (DAC), in collaboration with South African stakeholders and Mozambican government officials, will form a Joint Planning Steering Committee to drive the planning and implementation of this project which will see the President of South Africa deliver the keynote address during the main event at Mbuzini.

The aim of the commemoration is, amongst others, to highlight the role played by the people of Mozambique towards the liberation of South Africa and other countries in Southern Africa; to foster social cohesion, nation building, economic development and inclusive citizenship; to promote political and social solidarity and co-operation between the people of South Africa and the people of Mozambique; to create awareness through educational programmes, dialogues and public engagements on the importance of our Liberation Heritage; and to support the National Heritage Council Project of establishing a National Liberation Heritage Route that will link all Liberation Heritage sites in South Africa, the SADC region and across continent.



# Upcoming Events

- 08 September 2016: International Literacy Day
- 05 to 11 September 2016: National Book Week
- 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
- 28 September 2016: Deputy Minister Enver Surty will be delivering a keynote address during World Milk Day at the Petrus Maziya School in the Gert Sibanda District in the Mpumalanga Province
- October 2016: Teacher Appreciation Month
- 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 – 07 October 2016: iNkosi Albert Luthuli Oral History Programme and Gala Dinner at Freedom Park, Pretoria
- 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



## OUR FUTURE - MAKE IT WORK

South Africa belongs to all its peoples. Now, in 2030, our story keeps growing as if spring is always with us.

Once, we uttered the dream of a rainbow.  
Now we see it, living it. It does not curve over the sky.

It is refracted in each one of us at home, in the community,  
in the city, and across the land, in an abundance of colour.

When we see it in the faces of our children, we know: there will  
always be, for us, a worthy future.