



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



NEWSLETTER

Minister Motshekga launches a Mandarin Teaching Programme for DBE officials

Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, along with Mr Li Song, Chargé d 'Affairs of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in South Africa, officially launched a Mandarin Teaching Programme at the DBE in Pretoria on 06 September 2016. During 2015, the Department of Basic Education (DBE) announced that Mandarin will be offered as an elective foreign language in South Africa from 2016. Nineteen officials from the DBE were therefore offered Mandarin teaching for a period of 20 weeks, as part of the bilateral agreement and co-operation between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of South Africa in the field of basic education. The agreement allows for a new group of officials to enrol every 6 months.

The DBE and the Chinese Culture and International Education Exchange Centre signed a *Declaration of Intent* to ensure that Mandarin Language teaching is offered at the DBE since the Department is the lead facilitator of the partnership between South Africa and China in the basic education sector. This agreement will also assist officials to access opportunities offered in and by China as the country is fast becoming one of South Africa's largest trading partners and those officials who are fluent in Mandarin would be able to have access to increased opportunities and strengthen ties, both culturally and economically, between the two nations.

Speaking during the launch, Minister Motshekga said, "This partnership is an indication that education is a fundamental and integral part of the broader relations between the two countries. Through this co-operation agreement, both parties will continue to forge close mutual technical co-operation in teacher development and exchange expertise in the field of education, particularly in critical fields such as Mathematics, Science and Technology. We are also committed to work together to introduce the teaching of Mandarin in South African schools". Mr Song conveyed his gratitude, saying: "I would like to thank Minister Motshekga and the DBE for all the support in promoting the Chinese language and culture in South Africa."



It is *all systems* go ahead of 2016 NSC Examinations



The DBE is ready to administer the 2016 Grade 12 National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations and is hard at work to ensure that the examinations are of the appropriate standard, error-free and with no irregularities. A team from the DBE briefed the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education on 13 September 2016 on the state of readiness for this year's examinations. Registration of centres and candidates has been completed and final verification of the data is currently underway. Question papers have been set and externally moderated. There are 677,141 registered full time and 150,183 part-time candidates sitting for the 2016 examinations, 9,000 more than 2015. The KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng Provinces have the largest enrolments with 169,769 and 112,069 candidates respectively. The Limpopo Province has 102,618 whilst the Eastern Cape Province has 89,740 candidates registered for the 2016 Grade 12 examinations. Enrolment figures showed an increase in the uptake of

Mathematics and a decline in those choosing Maths Literacy at this level.

The Head of National Assessment and Public Examinations at the DBE, Dr Rufus Poliah, told the Portfolio Committee that the education sector had recorded tremendous improvements in access, redress and equity. He said learning outcomes have shown an upward trend in the national, regional and international tests. Dr Poliah further mentioned that the Department did not only focus on system readiness, but that it was implementing programmes to ensure that learners received support. Dr Poliah said the Department has been putting measures in place to complement normal teaching and learning programmes to bring about improvements in performance since 2014. These include language support, subject specific content support, tracking learner performance and support for progressed learners.

The NSC examinations will commence on 26 October 2016 and conclude on 29 November 2016. The Minister of Basic Education will announce the outcome of the 2016 Grade 12 examinations on 04 January 2017. Candidates will be able to collect their results on 05 January 2017 from the centres where they wrote their examinations.

Education District Directors from various provinces share best practices on improving quality of education

District Directors from all over the country gathered in Pretoria on 25 and 26 August 2016 to attend their quarterly meeting with the Minister and Senior Managers of the DBE. These meetings have become a highlight on the calendar of district and provincial activities and a quality forum to share information, learn from best practice and generally grow in this community of basic education professionals who lead the charge to turn the education system around. Speaking at the forum Minister Angie Motshekga said, “The District Directors forum has, over the past years been a pillar of strength in holding the system together,” and highlighted that the meeting should assist District Directors to track progress in terms of improving quality learning and teaching in schools. “We have also been monitoring the performance of our progressed learners and should be able to reflect on how they are doing and how to strengthen our support to them in the remaining months before the commencement of the NSC Examinations,” the Minister added.

Minister Motshekga applauded the intervention of the private sector in assisting the Department in improving quality and efficiency in schools. “We strongly believe that partnerships in education will yield positive results towards our common vision of delivering quality education in our lifetime. It is for this reason that we have invited our partners to come and share with us the good stories of the work that we are doing together in the sector to improve the achievement of learning outcomes,” remarked the Minister and added that forums such as these needed to be continued to create platforms of ideas sharing in the education arena.

The highlight of the August meeting was the presentations made by the various Provincial Departments of Education (PEDs) which demonstrated improved monitoring and tracking of learner performance in the system. Every province was able to reflect on learner performance in their province using data drilling down to individual school level – a far cry to what was happening in the system only a few years ago. Presentations on improvement strategies were also shared by the following districts: Metropole South from the Western Cape Province shared their strategy to improve Foundation Phase performance; Bojanala from the North West Province shared their strategy for improving Grade 9 Mathematics and Mt Frere from the Eastern Cape Province presented their strategy for a definite improvement in 2016 NSC results.

Click on the below link for the full article:

[Education District Directors from various provinces share best practices](#)



Eastern Cape learners converge to promote literacy as a fun activity

Zwelakhe Secondary School emerged as the overall winner of the literacy drive during the Ntabankulu English Literacy Festival held at Mount Frere in the Eastern Cape Province on 08 September 2016. The event was co-hosted by the DBE, the Eastern Cape Provincial Education Department and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to mark the 50th year Anniversary of International Literacy Day. UNESCO proclaimed 08 September as International Literacy Day on 17 November 1965, to highlight the importance of literacy for individuals, communities and societies across the globe.

Twelve schools from Mount Frere participated in this literacy drive to showcase their literacy skills in various categories, ranging from poetry, drama, debating, storytelling, reading comprehension, panel discussions, prepared speech and unprepared reading. The top three winning schools from each category were presented with trophies as a symbol of recognition for their excellent literacy skills displayed.

Ms Zine Mtimde, a Grade 12 learner from the Zwelakhe Senior Secondary School, applauded Government for bringing learners together to promote literacy. “It was very exciting to see how talented my fellow learners were during this occasion; I enjoyed every moment,” said the learner. Ms Mtimde reminded other learners to put more effort into advancing their literacy skills through comprehensive reading. “We would need to read more books if we want to become true ambassadors of literacy in this country,” remarked Mtimde.

Click on the below link for the full article:

[Eastern Cape learners converge to promote literacy as a fun activity](#)



Hand-over of Zamilizwe Primary School - a symbol of the advances of a modern democracy

The joyous sound of ululation echoed across the hills of Ludeke as the MEC for Education in the Eastern Cape Province, Mr Mandla Makupula, handed over the R21 million Zamilizwe Primary School outside Qumbu to the community. This state of the art school, delivered through the DBE's Accelerated Schools Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (ASIDI), continues to restore the dignity of rural education. More than 170 out of 510 schools have been handed-over as part of the ASIDI Initiative to date.

"The ASIDI Programme in the Eastern Cape Province is handing over schools to communities on a weekly basis during ceremonies that close one chapter and open another for the benefit of communities such as your own," said MEC Makupula. "Namhlanje si no lonwabo, today we have reason to rejoice," he concluded.



iNkosi Albert Luthuli Oral History Programme is on track

The National iNkosi Albert Luthuli Oral History Competition is scheduled to take place from 04 to 07 October 2016, at Freedom Park in Pretoria, where learners and educators will be expected to present their projects during parallel sessions. The iNkosi Albert Luthuli Oral History Competition started as part of the Department's efforts to boost History as a subject of choice for learners. The Programme was established in 2005 in partnership with South African History Online (SAHO) and aims to rekindle a love for History as a subject of choice in schools. The Programme is named after one of the luminaries of the liberation struggle, iNkosi Albert John Luthuli, a dedicated educator and a Nobel Peace Prize Laureate in 1960.

The Programme is open to Grade 8 to 11 learners who have an interest in the study of History and Social Sciences and it covers schools across the nine provinces. The Programme further aims at improving teaching practice with particular reference to History; and educators are therefore also participating in the Programme by preparing portfolios on how they went about assisting learners in preparing for their oral history projects. The DBE had been working closely with Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) and Districts to ensure that oral history workshops were conducted earlier this year. PEDs convened their district elimination rounds in June with provincial elimination rounds set to take place during August and September 2016.

Learners and educators are required to provide a portfolio of evidence and prepare oral presentations to develop their critical thinking and research skills; learners will also have to prepare a research paper on three historical issues to include the 60th Anniversary of the Women's March, the 40th Anniversary of the Youth Uprising and the 20th Anniversary of the *Constitution* of South Africa. All participating learners and educators will receive a certificate of participation and the overall winners, from both the learner and educator categories, will receive winner's certificates and prizes.



Public servants urged to conduct themselves in ethical and professional manner



The Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) urges all public servants to conduct themselves in an ethical and professional manner when executing their responsibilities, not only during Public Service Month this September, but as a moral responsibility. The *Constitution* of the Republic of South Africa, the *Public Service Code of Conduct* and the *Service Charter* are the guiding documents for how public servants are expected to behave themselves when working.

In terms of the *Public Service Co-ordinating Bargaining Council Resolution 2 of 1999*, all employees in the Public Service have the responsibility to comply with the prescribed *Code of Conduct* and not abuse time and resources which could be effectively utilised to enhance service delivery to conduct their own private matters. All government departments are urged to investigate public servants who abuse state resources and institute disciplinary action against them. Public Service Month is generally used to recognise public servants who follow the *Batho Pele* principles which require them to be polite, open and transparent and to deliver good service to the public. As a Public Service, we should at all times be guided by the *Batho Pele* Value Statement: *We Belong, We Care, We Serve*.

Public Service Month will coincide with the annual Thusong Service Week that will be held between 19 and 23 September 2016. The main focus of the week is to highlight government information, services and opportunities that are available at Thusong Service Centres across the country. Events have been planned to commemorate the week and profile the achievements of the centres since their establishment in 1999.



Annual Thusong Service Centre Week

19 – 23 September 2016



Tourism Month: *Tourism For All* – *Promoting Universal Access*

2016 tourism month

#tourismforall

tourism for all
promoting universal accessibility

Minister of Tourism, Mr Derek Hanekom, launched Tourism Month on 25 August 2016 at the Xhariep Dam in the Free State Province, under the Theme: *Tourism For All*, which is derived from the World Tourism Day theme: *Tourism For All – Promoting Universal Access*. Tourism Month will this year showcase the Free State Province as a destination with its endless leisure activities with the World Tourism Day Celebrations taking place in Parys on 27 September 2016.

During Tourism Month, the Department of Tourism, along with South African Tourism, would like to inspire and drive demand for domestic tourism; stimulate and address the geographic spread of the less visited provinces and regions; reduce seasonality and promote all year round leisure travel; and create awareness amongst communities of the importance of tourism and social, cultural political and economic values. Annually, South Africa celebrates Tourism Month in September to provide the tourism industry with the opportunity for a heightened focus on the importance of tourism to the local economy. It also serves as an opportunity to promote domestic tourism and create a culture of travel amongst South Africans. The theme also focuses on ensuring that tourism products are universally accessible especially for people with disabilities. The tourism industry employs 655,609 people directly and 1,5 million both directly and indirectly. In other words, one in every ten jobs in our country or 4.4% of the population is supported by tourism.

Provincial Round-up

KwaZulu-Natal



Eastern Cape



Director-General for Basic Education, Mr Mathanzima Mveli, continued with nation-wide visits to provinces to address and share information with managers and principals on the implementation of the National Development Plan (NDP) as it relates to the education sector. During 05 to 08 September 2016, Mr Mveli visited Queenstown in the Eastern Cape; and Pinetown and Newcastle in KwaZulu-Natal. During his visit to Newcastle on 08 September 2016, Mr Mveli was joined by Minister Angie Motshekga, the Acting Head of the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Education Department, Advocate Bheki Masuku, and senior managers from the DBE and the Provincial Education Department. The main focus areas were reflecting on the 2015 National Senior Certificate (NSC) results to ensure excellence in learner performance during the 2016 NSC examinations, as well as the performance of progressed learners, which has been identified as a burning issue in all the provinces visited.

Upcoming Events

- 21 September 2016: A Reading Indaba 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
- 18 – 19 October 2016: The Digital Education Show Africa will be taking place at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg
- 26 October to 29 November 2016: 2016 National Senior Certificate Examinations
- 10 – 16 December 2016: The South African Schools National Championships (Summer Games) will be taking place at Wits University in Johannesburg
- 04 January 2017: Ministerial Announcement of the 2016 National Senior Certificate Examinations Results
- 05 January 2017: Release of the 2016 National Senior Certificate Examinations Results



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.