



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



NEWSLETTER

Minister Motshekga addresses learners at the start of the 2016 NSC Examinations

Minister Motshekga addressed learners, educators and members of the media at the Kensington High School in the Western Cape Province on 26 October 2016 ahead of the first day of the National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examinations where more than 675,415 learners were preparing to sit for English Paper 1 at the 6,797 examination centres across the country. Minister Motshekga wished the Class of 2016 all of the best for the NSC Examinations and encouraged all learners to study hard to succeed and to become exemplary world citizens.

The Department has been hard at work to ensure that an appropriate and enabling environment is set to enable the seamless administration of the 2016 NSC Examinations. During September 2016, a team from the DBE briefed the Council of Education Ministers (CEM), as well as the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education on the state of readiness for this year's examinations. With a total of 677,141 registered full-time and 150,183 part-time candidates, the 2016 examinations will see a total of 9,216 additional candidates from the number that wrote the examinations in 2015.

The final NSC Examination paper will be written on 29 November 2016 and Minister Motshekga will announce the results on 04 January 2017.



2016 National Spelling Bee Competition underway at UNISA



The DBE, in partnership with SABC Education, the Department of Arts and Culture, UNISA, the AVBOB Foundation and Monash South Africa, will be hosting the National Spelling Bee Competition for learners in Grade 4 to 6 on 29 October 2016 at the UNISA Main Campus (Kgorong Building) in Pretoria. This forms part of an initiative to develop a culture of reading in the country through the *Read to Lead Campaign*, which aims to improve learner's performance in languages, especially in English.

Reading opens the door to a child's early academic success, imparts a love of learning and leads to higher grades in every subject as strong oral language skills are the basis

for literacy development. When children learn to read at an early age, they have greater general knowledge, expand their vocabulary and become fluent readers.

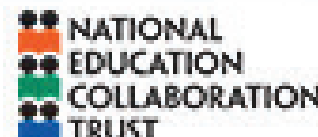
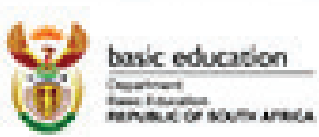
As part of the *Integrated National Literacy and Numeracy Strategy: A Whole School Approach*, the Department successfully hosted the first National Spelling Bee Championships on 10 October 2014, in Pretoria. The Spelling Bee plays a pivotal role in promoting a passion for reading amongst South African learners in the Foundation and Intermediate Phases. The objectives of the National Spelling Bee Championships can be summarised as: promoting a love for reading, writing and correct spelling in the Intermediate Phase in English; addressing spelling gaps in language teaching that cause poor performance; inculcating reading as an enjoyable literary activity; and laying a solid foundation for future academic performance.

Click on the below link to view Minister Motshekga's message in respect of the 2016 National Spelling Bee Competition:

<https://www.facebook.com/educationSABC/posts/1113710812081510>



Celebrating our teachers during Teachers' Month



Teachers' Month will culminate in a gala event that will be taking place at the South African Council for Educators (SACE) offices in Centurion on 28 October 2016 under the theme: *Valuing Teachers, Improving Their Status*. Minister Motshekga will use the opportunity presented by the commemoration of this special month to thank all those teachers who go above and beyond the call of duty every day to ensure that our children have the best chance of success in the world as well rounded active citizens.

This is done in support of the Teacher Appreciation and Support Programme (TASP), which is led by the Department of Basic Education (DBE) and SACE; and is supported by the National Education Collaboration Trust, the Education Labour Relations Council, the ETDP SETA and Teacher Unions. The aim of the TASP is to support the *Education 2030 Framework for Action* by developing and celebrating South African teachers throughout the year, and not just on the occasion of World Teachers' Day in October each year, as teacher development and support is one of the major focus areas of the Department of Basic Education.

World Teachers' Day (celebrated annually on 05 October) and Teachers' Month, represent a significant effort to raise awareness, understanding and appreciation for the vital contribution that teachers make to education and development across the globe. It also highlights the rights and responsibilities of teachers as well as international standards for their initial training and further education, recruitment, employment, teaching and learning conditions. Teachers have the power to influence young minds and thereby the trajectory of the country. In many instances teachers fill the voids left by parents when it comes to instilling morals and values in the future generation. Let's work together to improve the status of the teaching profession during Teachers' Month and show our teachers that we value, support and appreciate them.



SuperSport Let's Play and DBE hand-over a sports field to Stredford Primary School

The DBE, in partnership with SuperSport Let's Play, handed over a new sports field to Stredford Primary School in Orange Farm on 21 October 2016. Let's Play is a programme created by SuperSport to promote a positive path for the well-being of underprivileged youth. The lack of physical activity and sports participation leads to a number of problems in health and social psychology among underprivileged learners. SuperSport has undertaken to build playing facilities in identified schools and co-ordinates the *Let's Play Physical Education Challenges* in all provinces.

National Risk Manager from Hitachi Construction Machinery, Mr Christo Marx, said, "It is an honour and a privilege to participate with SuperSport Let's Play, Builders Warehouse, Active Education and the DBE in making a difference in communities by creating sports facilities in schools all around South Africa and getting the children active in sports. By active participation of the children we create an active mind and once an active mind is set, it will set the pace for future learners to become leaders and sports stars".

The DBE's representative, Mr Bongani Zondi, thanked the stakeholders for their various contributions; amongst them was Mr Jabu Mahlangu, formerly known as Jabu Pule, a retired South African football midfielder that last played for SuperSport United, who joined in the activities to motivate the learners. He highlighted the importance for learners to respect their parents and teachers, and to make it a priority to remain drug and alcohol free throughout their lives.

Mr Zondi concluded by saying, "Education is holistic which means we aim at educating well-rounded learners who will perform well in the classroom and on the sports field."



Taking school leadership to the next level through accountability

The improvement of school leadership and management has become a focus area in improving quality learning and teaching in schools. The DBE's Director for Education Management and Governance, Mr James Ndlebe, joined the Director-General, Mr Mathanzima Mwel, in this year's provincial roadshows aimed at encouraging principals to maintain quality and efficiency within the schooling system.

“Effective school management is universally accepted as being the critical element in the success of a school. A lack of leadership is considered to be the main contributor to underperformance and dysfunctionality in schools. This is usually related to the capacity, competence and nature of the school management teams, particularly the principal,” explained Mr Ndlebe.

A lack of curriculum coverage in schools is regarded as the main contributory factor to poor learner performance. This is a result of poor management, including late coming, absenteeism, early departure, a lack of focus on time and task, as well as the absence of consequences management.

Mr Ndlebe further emphasised that principals should find a way to involve parents in all school activities. Schools must see themselves as accountable to the community and to the parents which they serve. In most cases one would find that schools have well-functioning and active School Governing Bodies (SGB), which see these particular schools as the centre of the community. In these communities parents are active participants in their children's education and engage teachers about issues and challenges relating to their children's schooling.

Mr Ndlebe further advised principals to inform parents about the key departmental interventions and programmes such as the Curriculum Assessment Policy Statements (CAPS), the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) and the Funza Lushaka Bursary Scheme, as parents need to be encouraged to monitor their children's school work and participate in school and education sector activities and programmes. “Our vision is to have school principals who ensure that teaching prevails as anticipated. Principals who also understand their role as leaders whose responsibility it is to promote harmony, creativity and a sound work ethic within their school communities and beyond,” Mr Ndlebe concluded.



Foundation Phase Subject Advisors equipped for the effective implementation of the English First Additional Language Reading Programme in South Africa

The DBE, in partnership with the National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT), launched the English First Additional Language (EFAL) Reading Programme, which will be rolled out to 10,000 teachers in Grade 1 to 3 nationally in 2017, in line with the Departmental primary school focus.

The programme is aimed at improving learning outcomes in the early grades in response to the *National Development Plan* (NDP) which has set a 50% target for literacy and numeracy for Grades 3, 6 and 9 by 2030.

An orientation workshop with a core group of 20 Foundation Phase (FP) subject advisors and Teacher Union representatives was held at the Garden Court Hotel at the OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg from 20 to 21 October 2016. Follow-up National Core Training Team (NCTT) workshops targeting 280 Foundation Phase language advisors will be held in November 2016 and March 2017.

Chief Education Specialist, Ms Chintha Maharaj, said, “Learners would be able to use English more proficiently as the language of learning and teaching in Grade 4 and beyond if they are exposed to a solid foundation in English language learning in the early grades”.

Teachers will be trained on “how to teach reading” using the different methodologies such as reading aloud, shared reading, group guided reading and independent reading for learners to be able to make the transition from *learning to read to reading to learn*.



Jazz diva pays a courtesy call to the National Commission for UNESCO



On 25 October 2016, the South African National Commission for UNESCO Secretariat received a courtesy call from Ms Brenda Sisane, the host of KAYA FM's jazz programme, *The Art of Sunday with Brenda*. Brenda Sisane is a household name in radio and television broadcasting in South Africa.

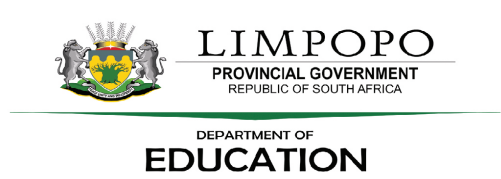
Brenda Sisane has, together with Motsumi Makhene, Shado Twala and Hugh Masekela, established the International Jazz Day South Africa, an entity seeking to host the UNESCO International Jazz Day in South Africa, after the event was successfully hosted by the President of the United States of America (USA), President Barak Obama, at the White House earlier this year. International Jazz Day South Africa has secured the support of the South African Embassy in Paris, and the support of the National Commission is crucial if their wish is to be realised.

In November 2011, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) officially designated 30 April as International Jazz Day in order to highlight jazz music and its diplomatic role of uniting people across all corners of the globe.

In December 2012, the United Nations General Assembly officially welcomed the decision by the General Conference of UNESCO to proclaim April 30 as International Jazz Day. The United Nations therefore called upon its Member States to participate actively in the celebration of International Jazz Day in order to develop and increase intercultural exchanges and understanding between cultures for the purpose of mutual comprehension and tolerance.

Provincial Round-up

Limpopo Province



Learners across the Limpopo Province, who will be writing the NSC Examinations, signed an examination pledge committing to comply with the *Examination Code of Conduct* applicable to all candidates. The rationale for the pledge is to assist with the curbing and control of examination irregularities, and is an attempt to adopt a more proactive rather than a reactive approach to the NSC Examinations. The pledge demands learners to be honest, not to cheat and avoid copying throughout the examination period. The MEC for Education, Mr. Ishmael Kgetjepe, also signed the pledge at the Taxila Secondary School in Nirvana, Polokwane, in the Limpopo Province.

Upcoming Events

- October 2016: Teacher Appreciation Month
- 26 October to 29 November 2016: 2016 National Senior Certificate Examinations
- 28 October 2016: World Teachers' Month Gala Dinner hosted by SACE at their offices in Centurion
- 29 October 2016: Second Chance Matric Support Programme Marketing Activation in Mthatha, Eastern Cape Province
- 03 November – 03 December 2016: Disability Rights Awareness Month
- 04 November 2016: Second Chance Matric Support Programme Marketing Activation in Bloemfontein, Free State Province
- 05 November 2016: Second Chance Matric Support Programme Marketing Activation in Kimberley, Northern Cape Province
- 12 November 2016: Second Chance Matric Support Programme Marketing Activation in Stanger, KwaZulu-Natal Province
- 19 November 2016: Second Chance Matric Support Programme Marketing Activation in Limpopo Province
- 25 November – 10 December 2016: Commemoration of the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children Campaign
- 25 November 2016: A Breakfast Dialogue on the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children Campaign will be taking place at the DBE in Pretoria
- 25 November 2016: Second Chance Matric Support Programme Marketing Activation in Rustenburg and Mogwase, North West Province
- 26 November 2016: Second Chance Matric Support Programme Marketing Activation in Johannesburg, Gauteng Province
- 03 December 2016: Second Chance Matric Support Programme Marketing Activation in Bushbuckridge and Hazyview, Mpumalanga Province
- 09 December 2016: Second Chance Matric Support Programme Marketing Activation in Kuilsrivier, Western Cape Province
- 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 NSC Examinations Results
- 05 January 2017: Release of the 2016 NSC Examinations Results
- 11 January 2017: Opening of Schools for the 2017 Academic Year
- 19 January 2017: Closing day for applications for 2016 NSC Examination paper/s re-mark/re-check
- 19 January 2017: Closing day for applications for NSC Supplementary Examinations



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.