



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



NEWSLETTER

Persons with disabilities – equal participants in shaping a sustainable future



“The DBE is working towards ensuring an *inclusive and quality education for all* to promote lifelong learning opportunities as envisioned in Sustainable Development Goal Number 4. Inclusive Education has been the *Cinderella* of the system for some time, and with the advent of *White Paper 6*, Government has started in earnest to address this very important component of the Sector, and I believe that we are well on course to realise the vision of an inclusive and equitable education for all our learners,” said the Director-General for the Department of Basic Education (DBE), Mr Mathanzima Mveli in an interview leading up to the launch of the National Disability Rights Awareness Month (DRAM).

South Africa commemorates DRAM annually from 03 November to 03 December, with 03 December being commemorated as International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD), as well as National Disability Rights Awareness Day, to promote action to raise awareness about disability issues. The 2016 IDPD theme, announced by the United Nations (UN), is: “Achieving 17 Goals for the future we want”.

The Teaching and Learning for Early Learning and the Inclusive Education Programme were launched by Minister Angie Motshekga on 06 October 2016 under the theme, *Inclusion and Social Justice in Education*. Since 2010, the DBE has been collaborating with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) to develop a framework for teacher training in inclusive education at the Initial Teacher Education (ITE) level and also at Continuing Professional Teacher Development (CPTD) level to bring about radical transformation in teacher practice.

The Programme is a collaborative initiative of the European Union, the DBE, the DHET and the participating civil society organisations (CSOs). Higher Education Institutions will develop common approaches for teacher education in Inclusive Education and Early Childhood Development. Extensive research will also emerge from the programme, which will strengthen the body of knowledge in these two areas of specialisation. The programme is considered as a valuable opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of integrating Inclusive Education in the ITE curricula of all teachers, amongst others. Four consortiums have been awarded grants for a total EU investment of €3,000,000 (R45,000,000). The overall objective of the collaboration is to introduce a new era of teacher professional development that will effectively respond to Government’s vision of a fully inclusive education system by 2021.

“DRAM provides Government with an opportunity to continue to systematically implement the *White Paper on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, and to reach out to the diversity within the disability sector; acknowledging that all human and socio-economic rights should be equally enjoyed by all South Africans, irrespective of race, gender, impairment, socio-economic status or educational level,” Mr Mveli concluded.



Disability Rights Awareness Month 3 November - 3 December 2016

‘Persons with disabilities – equal participants in shaping a sustainable future’



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Northern Cape Province scoops first prize during the 2016 National Spelling Bee Championship



Miss Mayuri Govender, a Home Education learner in the Northern Cape Province, emerged as the champion speller during the 2016 National Spelling Bee Championship, which took place at the University of South Africa (UNISA) on 29 October 2016 by spelling the word “colloquial”. Miss Govender (9 years old), said that the championship encouraged her to read a lot of books. “My love for words and reading motivated me to enter the competition. It is an amazing project to motivate us as learners to value reading,” she said.

A total of 27 spellers competed in the 2016 championships. During each round, the spellers were expected to face the adjudicators on a one-on-one basis and to spell the pronounced words correctly; and a speller who failed to do so was automatically eliminated. Those who spelled the word correctly then proceeded to the next round to compete for the first place.

The winning learner received a Monash SA scholarship for an undergraduate degree of her choice, a trophy and a certificate of recognition for being the 2016 champion speller. Mr Mateo Joubert from the Imperial Primary School in the Western Cape Province was the second place winner, with Miss Naledi Mashatola from the Kwangulati Education Centre in the Limpopo Province being awarded third place.

The National Spelling Bee Championship plays a pivotal role in promoting a passion for reading amongst South African learners in the Intermediate Phase. The championship is used to promote a love for reading, writing and correct spelling in English; inculcate reading as an enjoyable literary activity; and ensures a solid foundation for future academic performance.

Deputy Minister for Basic Education, Mr Enver Surty, stated that the National Spelling Bee Championship is not only about spelling words correctly, but it is also about reading with understanding. Mr Surty added that learners need to be encouraged to read in order to perform optimally in class. “If we manage to get the literacy and numeracy skills right in the Foundation Phase, it will be easier for learners to perform well in the higher grades, particularly in the gateway subjects such as Mathematics and Physical Sciences”.



Valuing teachers and improving their status

Various education stakeholders attended the Teachers' Month Gala Dinner organised by the DBE and the South African Council for Educators (SACE) in Centurion, Pretoria, on 28 October 2016. The event, which was held under the World Teachers' Day theme: "*Valuing teachers and improving their status*", was aimed at saluting teachers and their significant role in transforming people's lives for the better. The DBE and SACE, partnered with key stakeholders such as the National Education and Collaboration Trust (NECT), the Education Labour Relations Council (ELRC) the ETDP-SETA, School Governing Body (SGB) formations and teacher unions, through the Teacher Appreciation Support Programme (TASP), to share a common goal of encouraging the nation to value teachers and their selfless service in educating generations. The TASP was established in 2014 to build the dignity of the teaching profession whilst motivating the teachers.

Deputy Director-General for the Planning and Delivery Oversight Unit, Mrs Palesa Tyobeka, SACE Chief Executive Officer, Mr Rej Brijraj and teacher unions also pledged their message of support during the event.

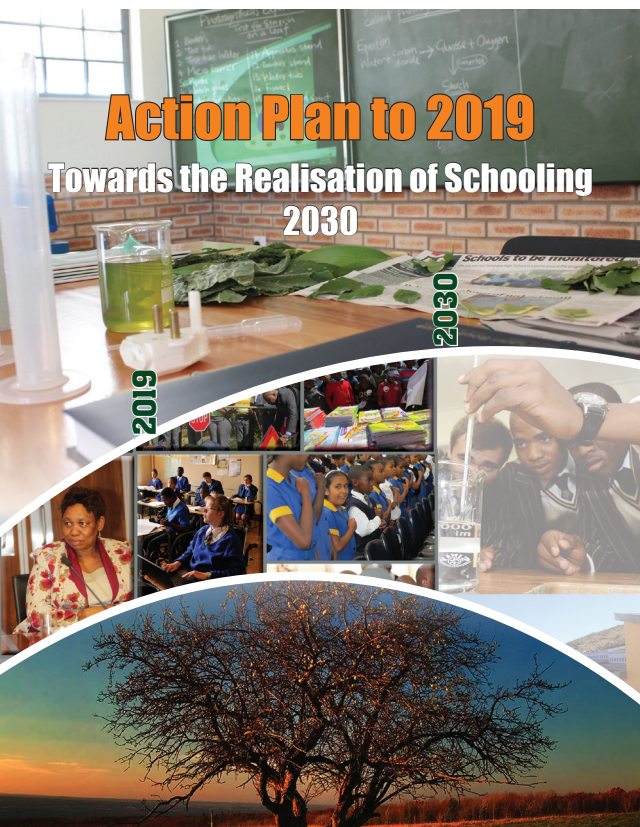
"We have to value our teachers; they are our hope for a better future," Mr Brijraj said in his opening remarks and added that teachers make a fundamental contribution towards instilling discipline amongst learners.

Mrs Tyobeka, who delivered a message of support on behalf of the Minister, said that teachers need to be supported to do their best in their day-to-day classroom activities. "We acknowledge your dedication and selfless service in ensuring that our children become responsible citizens," Mrs Tyobeka added and gave the assurance that the Department will continue to support teachers to improve excellence in schools.

Speaking at the gala dinner, the Director for Continuing Professional Teacher Development, Mr Haroon Mahomed, mentioned that the good work that most teachers do in schools has always been a pillar of strength for the South African schooling system. The Department is hard at work in ensuring that teachers are well equipped to deliver the curriculum proficiently. Using the *Integrated Strategic Planning Framework for Teacher Education and Development* as a basis, provincial departments, district offices, schools and higher education institutions are able to address the challenges of access and the quality of professional development opportunities for teachers. The Department is also mobilising the private sector to assist Government in promoting the continuing professional development of all teachers. To date, partnerships have been established with Microsoft, Vodacom, Intel, the British Council, the Flemish Agency for Development Support (VVOB) and SASOL Inzalo to strengthen delivery of teacher development programmes.



Review of Sector Outcomes Report provides evidence-based picture of improved learner performance



The DBE has published a review of sector outcomes on the progress in the schooling sector against key learner performance and attainment indicators obtained from the Departmental *Action Plan 2019: Towards the realisation of Schooling 2030*. The report serves as an important primary source of information for Parliamentary questions, media enquiries and international reporting. The report includes information on the sector's achievements, performance and attainment goals, partly through careful analysis of historical trends against agreed targets and partly through comparisons across provinces, as well as through reference to international benchmarks.

Improving the quality of basic education has been identified as *Outcome 1* within Government's system of fourteen priority outcomes. Ensuring that all South African children receive a solid educational foundation in the schools they attend is in line with the *National Development Plan* (NDP), as improved education will lead to higher employment rates, whilst rapid economic growth will broaden opportunities for all and generate the resources required to improve education. The findings of the report point to a schooling system which continues to build on past achievements and deal proactively with new challenges. In line with Government's drive for more evidence-based reporting and policymaking, this report makes critical use of a wide range of data sources, acknowledges the limitations of many of the data sources and assesses improvements currently under way to improve this situation. This report should be seen as part of a larger process, occurring inside and outside Government, towards a more evidence-based education discourse.

Click on the below link to read the full report:

<http://www.education.gov.za/Portals/0/Documents/Reports/Education%20Sector%20review%202015%20-%202016.pdf?ver=2016-10-28-103524-523>

Accelerated School Infrastructure Development Initiative (ASIDI) continues to restore dignity in rural areas

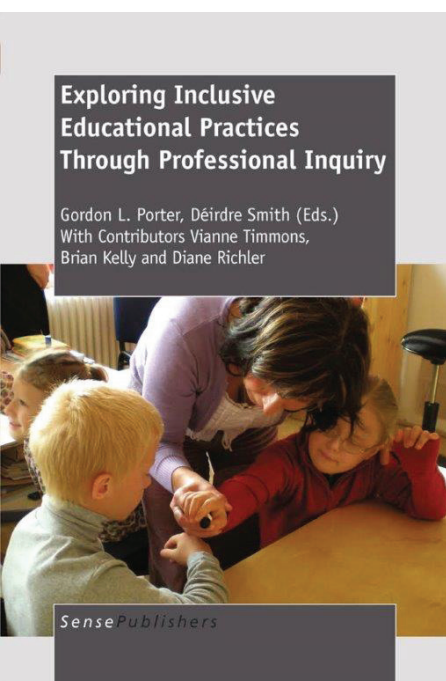
The Accelerated School Infrastructure Development Initiative (ASIDI) continues to make a contribution to quality education and access to basic services through the provision of much needed facilities, whilst contributing to the restoration of dignity in rural education and improved health standards for learners and teachers alike.

The ASIDI programme has completed the building of 177 schools to date, all of which are already occupied by learners. In addition, the programme has successfully provided basic services to existing schools over and above the provision of new schools. A total of 615 schools have been provided with water since the inception of the project during late 2011. A total of 425 schools have received decent sanitation and 307 schools have been provided with electricity. The ASIDI programme continues to assist with the delivery and provision of quality public school infrastructure to communities across rural South Africa and in urban under-privileged areas. A total of 54 schools will be completed in the 2016/17 financial year through this programme alone.



Information Resource Centre (IRC) Review

The IRC is commemorating Disability Rights Awareness Month during the month of November by featuring the following books:

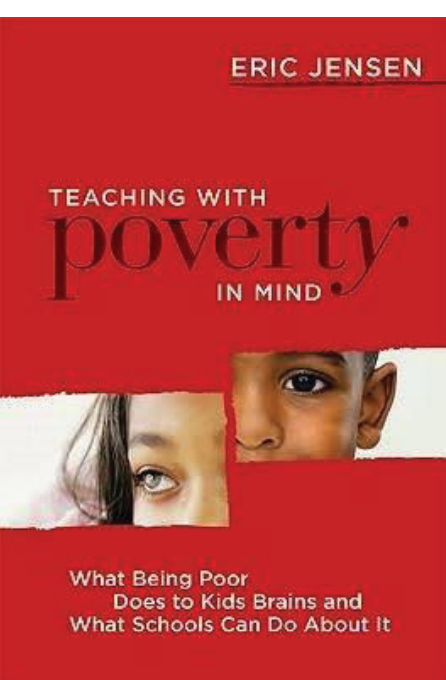


Exploring Inclusive Educational Practices through Professional Inquiry

Author: Porter, G

Dewey number: 371.9046 POR

Practitioners, scholars, and teacher education students alike can celebrate reading *Exploring Inclusive Educational Practices through Professional Inquiry*. This rich array of case scenarios both illuminates and elaborates the meaning of inclusion in today's schools and tomorrow's visions. Twenty-five stories from parents, teachers, school principals, and specialists highlight the kind of experiential knowledge that won't be found in typical research reports and district documents about inclusive education. This book makes a wonderful contribution to a better understanding of the challenges of inclusion, as well as the commitments positioned alongside values in order to meet those challenges.



Teaching with poverty in mind: what being poor does to kids' brains and what schools can do about it

Author: Jensen, E

Dewey number: 371.102 JEN

Although every educator knows first-hand about the effects that poverty can have on students, here is a book that clarifies why and how the effects of poverty have to be addressed in classroom teaching and in school and district policies. Veteran educator and expert, Mr Eric Jensen, helps you understand how and why students raised in poverty are especially subject to factors that undermine school behaviour and performance.

New Hate Speech Bill opened for public comment

Discrimination against persons with disabilities often takes the form of hate speech and hate crimes. The release of the *Prevention and Combating of Hate Crimes and Hate Speech Bill* by the Ministry of Justice and Correctional Services is therefore one of those moments in history where the sector needs to pause, unite and ensure that the rights of persons with disabilities are sufficiently protected through the envisaged new legislation.

The *base offences* most often committed against victims of hate crimes are offences to the physical and emotional integrity of the person, as well as offences against the property of the victims. A *base offence* would become a hate crime when the motivation involves prejudice, bias or intolerance because of race, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic or social origin, colour, religion, culture, language, HIV status, albinism and occupation or trade.

The Bill will also influence the education sector and direct the interaction between learners, teachers, parents and school management.

Any person wishing to comment on the Bill is invited to submit written comments to the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development on or before 01 December 2016.

Click on the below link to read the Bill:

[Prevention and Combating of Hate Crimes and Hate Speech Bill](#)



Provincial Round-up

Eastern Cape Province



Retired teachers from the Eastern Cape Department of Education (ECDoE) recently gathered in East London at the Education Leadership Institute to sign their mentorship contracts as part of the intervention programme to assist with 560 underperforming schools in the Eastern Cape. These contracts also stated which school each retired official will be paired up with.

The ETDP-SETA is funding the 15 month programme that commenced on 01 November 2016 for the 141 officials. These mentors will be submitting monthly reports, which need to be handed in on the 20th of each month, to monitor intervention and progress made in the province.

Upcoming Events

- 03 November – 03 December 2016: Disability Rights Awareness Month
- 04 November 2016: Deputy Minister Enver Surty to hand over Vooruitsig Primary School in the Western Cape Province as part of the ASIDI programme
- 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.

