



**basic education**

Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**THUTO**



## NEWSLETTER

# Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa hosts Youth Development and Career Expo in Limpopo Province



The Deputy President of South Africa, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, hosted a Youth Development and Career Expo at the NkowaNkowa Stadium in Tzaneen in the Limpopo Province on 19 November 2016. Deputy President Ramaphosa was accompanied by various national and provincial senior government officials.

The aim of the Expo was to provide career guidance and information on further education and training opportunities to learners who are in Grades 10 to 12, unemployed youth and youth who have dropped out from high school. The Expo is part of Government's directive to assist young people to advance and to actively participate in the South African economy.

The Department of Basic Education (DBE) exhibition stall was visited by thousands of education stakeholders, including learners, parents, youth and community members; engaging on educational issues relating to social cohesion, learner wellness, care and support, career guidance and subject choice, the Second Chance Matric Support Programme and the Funza Lushaka Bursary Scheme.

The Deputy President advised young people to guard against substance abuse and to rather focus on education and reading. He was delighted that the youth in the NkowaNkowa Community understands the essence of education as a tool to advance their future and wished all the Grade 12 learners, who are currently sitting for the National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examination, the best of luck for the examinations.

# Minister Motshekga hands over Bhungu Primary School to the Libode community in the Eastern Cape Province

Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, officially handed over Bhungu Primary School to the Libode community in the Eastern Cape Province on 17 November 2016, as part of the Accelerated Schools Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (ASIDI).

Built at a cost of R24 million, the new institution is one of 172 new schools completed under the initiative with 126 of them being located in the Eastern Cape Province. The new school, which has an enrolment of 392 learners, is equipped with a computer laboratory, 11 classrooms, a Grade R centre, a science laboratory, a resource centre, as well as a multipurpose hall and a nutrition centre where learners are served a daily National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) meal.

In her opening remarks, Minister Motshekga said, “Bhungu Primary School is part and parcel of our comprehensive *Programme of Action* (POA) as encapsulated in the *Action Plan to 2019: Towards the Realisation of Schooling 2030*. Goal 24 of the POA states clearly that we *must ensure that the physical infrastructure and environment of every school inspires learners to want to come to school and learn, and teachers to teach.*”

“Experts call this a positive school environment. A positive school environment is defined as a school having appropriate facilities, well-managed classrooms, available school-based health support and a clear, fair disciplinary policy,” added Minister Motshekga.

ASIDI is a R8.2 billion programme and is one of Government’s Strategic Infrastructure Projects (SIPs) aimed at restoring dignity to education in rural and under privileged urban areas across the country. The objective of ASIDI is to eradicate the backlog of schools without water, sanitation and electricity and to replace those schools that are constructed from inappropriate materials (e.g. mud, “plankie”, asbestos) in order to contribute towards optimum levels of learning and teaching. The Schools Infrastructure Backlog Grant (SIBG) funds the ASIDI programme.





# A major boost for Mathematics, Science and Technology in South African schools

Basic Education Deputy Minister, Mr Enver Surty, met with the President of the Korean National Institute for International Education (NIIED), Mr Kwang Ho Kim, who was accompanied by a delegation from the Republic of South Korea on 21 November 2016. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss the implementation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which binds South Africa and South Korea to work together in strengthening quality learning and teaching in critical subjects such as Mathematics and Physical Science.

The MoU allows for South Korea to send six volunteer teachers (two for Mathematics, two for Physical Science and two for Computer Studies) to South Africa to share best practices. The volunteers will be dispatched by NIIED and will be deployed to schools where they are needed, as identified by the Department of Basic Education (DBE). The six volunteer teachers will be dispatched to South Africa during January 2017 and are expected to stay in South Africa for a period of twelve months. Mr Kwang Ho Kim said that the agreement the two countries are entering into will transform the South African education landscape for the better.

Deputy Minister Surty informed the South Korean delegation that the improvement of quality learning and teaching in Mathematics, Science and Technology (MST) is one of the DBE's priorities, and added that the partnership will boost the performance of learners in those schools where MST teachers are needed.



## Deputy Minister Surty delivers keynote address at SANZAF Youth and Community Development Pledge Dinner

Deputy Minister Enver Surty delivered the keynote address to the South African National Zakah Fund (SANZAF), South Africa's oldest and most established Muslim community welfare organisation, during the Youth and Community Development Pledge Dinner at Ghouzia Manzil, Rylands, Cape Town in the Western Cape Province, on 18 November 2016. SANZAF is a faith-based, socio-welfare and educational organisation that strives to facilitate the empowerment of needy families.

This event is part of SANZAF's flagship project, the SANZAF Education Empowerment and Development (SEED) programme that aims to alleviate poverty through a sustainable development programme that focuses on knowledge and skills training.

The Youth and Community Development Pledge Dinner hosted 250 guests representing well established business partners within the community with the objective of encouraging more benefactors to become involved in the funding of projects, and play a meaningful role in achieving economic prosperity and a good quality life for young beneficiaries.





# Models for Professional Teacher Development and Professional Learning Communities Colloquium

A Models for Professional Teacher Development (PTD) and Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) Colloquium will be hosted at the DBE from 05 to 06 December 2016. The Colloquium will bring together a broad spectrum of delegates from the Provincial Education Departments (PEDs), the Department of Higher Education and Training, teacher unions, universities and social partners such as the British Council and the Flemish Association for Development Cooperation and Technical Assistance (VVOB). The participants will provide guidance and proposals on the best models for PTD and bring testimonies on how PLCs could be positioned and made more effective in contributing to the professional development of teachers in our schools.

To be effective and successful, PTD must be of a high quality and relevant to teachers' needs. Teacher development combines a range of techniques to promote learning; provide teachers with the support they need; engage school leadership; and makes use of evaluation to increase its impact. Essential techniques include mentoring, teamwork, observation, reflection and assessment. There is a wide range of different models for teacher development. These models can be conceptualised differently in respect to the content, organisation and activities, whether they are individually driven; school-based; district-based; off-site workshops; driven by professional bodies; or whether they are formal and structured qualifications obtained at a Higher Education Institute.

It is envisaged that the Colloquium will provide valuable information on how to achieve high levels of functionality of PLCs and the adoption and implementation of models for professional teacher development that can bring about the necessary impact in the teaching and learning space.



# Encouraging dialogue during the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children Campaign



The South African Government will launch the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children Campaign at the Lebowakgomo Civic Centre, Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality in the Limpopo Province on 25 November 2016 under the theme: *“Count Me In: Together Moving a Non-Violent South Africa Forward”*.

The DBE condemns violence and abuse against women and children within the basic education sector and beyond; and further pledges its continued support for the Campaign. A Breakfast Dialogue is scheduled to take place at the DBE in Pretoria on 25 November 2016, as part of an awareness campaign aimed at providing officials with information relating to violence against vulnerable groups such as women and children, in preparation towards the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children Campaign.

During the national Campaign, Government will be engaging with citizens during National Dialogues Sessions which will be taking place across the country. During these sessions, citizens from rural to urban settings, formal to informal settlements, will share their personal experiences towards finding collective solutions to end the abuse in our communities. Government is therefore calling upon all citizens to attend and participate in these National Dialogue Sessions to discuss issues relating to gender-based (GBV) violence. For immediate care, assistance and counselling, victims of gender-based violence should contact the GBV Command Centre on 0800 428 428 or send a please call me to \*120\*7867#

# Disability Rights Awareness Month continues to ensure that persons with disabilities are equal participants in shaping a sustainable future



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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. With the advent of *White Paper 6*, Government has started in earnest to address this very important component of the Sector. South Africa commemorates National Disability Rights Awareness Month (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 United Nations General Assembly adopted the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* during October 2015. The time frame for achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agreed upon, coincides with South Africa’s *National Development Plan (NDP) 2030*. Development cannot be sustainable if it is not inclusive. The international disability sector worked tirelessly during the negotiation phases of the development of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* to ensure that persons with disabilities and their families are not left behind. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which preceded the SDGs, did not specifically highlight the need to include persons with disabilities, with the result that not much was done to ensure that persons with disabilities benefit equally.

It is necessary to foster respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and for their right to preserve their identities. This involves respecting the evolving capacities of children as a positive and enabling process, that supports the child’s maturation, autonomy and self-expression; enabling their participation in supported decision-making processes that affect them, including their right to preserve their identities; and respect for the sanctity of family, the right to family life, and the right to alternative care within the wider family for children with disabilities.

## Provincial Round-up

### Gauteng Province



Grade 10 learners at the Randfontein High School in the Gauteng West District made history when they became the first South African learners to, this year, receive digitised exam papers. The school fully implemented Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in teaching and learning in 2015 and introduced digitised internal examinations. On 11 November 2016 the school’s Grade 10 learners sat for the national year end Physical Science Paper 1 examination, not in the traditional hard copy, but in electronic format via the school’s Intranet portal.

A password protected paper was uploaded to the school’s Intranet portal. The security password for the examination paper was received by the learners 10 minutes prior to the commencement of the examination to enable them to access the paper. At the end of the examination, the paper was concealed again on the Intranet so that those who wanted to review the paper afterwards would have access via a password. This process will not only save paper, labour and transport costs, but will also improve security.



# Upcoming Events

- 03 November – 03 December 2016: Disability Rights Awareness Month
- 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, Gauteng Province
- 25 November 2016: Launch of a partnership with UNISA, and funded by the Department of Higher Education and Training, for the roll-out and support for 45 Teacher Training Centres at the Benoni Teacher Training Centre in the Gauteng Province
- 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
- 29 November 2016: Minister Motshekga to release the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) 2015 results at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 30 November to 02 December 2016: Training for the national Primary School Improvement Programme (PSRIP) for Subject Advisors to take place at St George's Hotel and Conference Centre in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 02 December 2016: Commemoration of World AIDS Day at the Albert Moroka High School, Thaba Nchu in the Free State Province
- 03 December 2016: Second Chance Matric Support Programme Marketing Activation in Bushbuckridge and Hazyview, Mpumalanga Province
- 05 – 06 December 2016: A Models for Professional Teacher Development and PLCs Colloquium will be taking place at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng 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, Gauteng Province
- 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
- 15 January to 22 January 2017: The National Adjudication of the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual NTA will be taking place in the Gauteng Province
- 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.