



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



NEWSLETTER

Message from the Director-General to learners, educators, parents, caregivers and officials on the Commemoration of World AIDS Day



"It is in our Hands to end HIV and TB: It is in our Hands to Triumph."

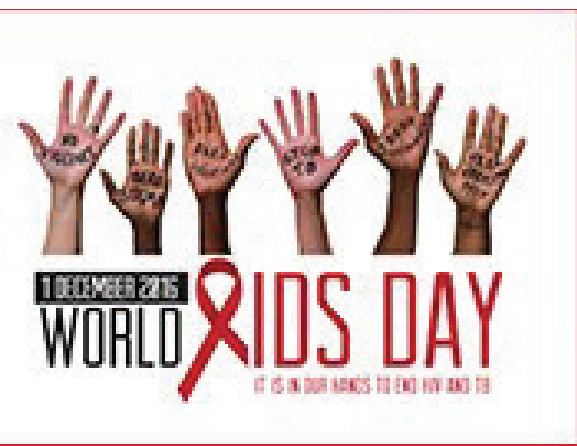
World AIDS Day (WAD) is commemorated each year on 01 December. It is an opportunity for the world to unite in the fight against HIV, show support for people living with HIV and to remember those who have passed away from AIDS.

South Africa has made tremendous progress since 2009 to turn the HIV, AIDS and TB epidemics around. More people are receiving antiretroviral treatment, and people with HIV are living longer and healthier.

However, new HIV infections continue to be a stubborn problem, especially among 15 to 24 year old girls who bear the brunt of these new infections. In addition, stigma and discrimination continue to be prevalent in our communities, undermining the collective effort on prevention, treatment and care of people living with HIV and those who have Tuberculosis.

On WAD 2016, the Department of Basic Education joins the rest of South Africa to take stock of the progress made in implementing the *National Strategic Plan on HIV, STIs and TB 2012-2016* (NSP), whose term comes to an end. As a sector, we can be proud of the contribution we have made in the overall multi-sector response in the country. We can count, amongst others on:

- Improving the quality of education and retaining learners in school until Grade 12 because evidence supports our assertion that *"Safe Schools Protect Children"*;
- The *DBE Integrated Strategy on HIV, STIs and TB* that is aligned to the national Strategic Plan (NSP);
- The HIV and AIDS Life skills programme that has expanded its focus beyond curriculum activities to include programmes to address the drivers of HIV such as alcohol and drug use, early sexual debut, vulnerability through provision of a package of pro-poor programmes, peer education as well as care and support for orphans and other vulnerable learners;
- The new ground-breaking policy on HIV, STIs and TB which was recently approved by the Council of Education Ministers that will guide our efforts over the next term to strengthen programmes not only for learners, but also for our educators and officials on **both** HIV/STIs and TB; and



***"It is in our Hands to end HIV and TB:
It is in our Hands to Triumph"***

01 DECEMBER 2016

**ZERO STIGMA
ZERO DISCRIMINATION**



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- Annually hosting the Commemoration of WAD in the Department including build-up activities with educators and learners, as well as implementing a post-commemoration programme throughout the year. This is in addition to participating in WAD events in the country led by the Presidency and the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC).

As we craft the new plan for the next five years, we must ensure that we strengthen our communities and local responses. We will succeed only when each ward, each municipality and each district takes the lead. Schools are an integral cog in this wheel.

The DBE is committed to progressively provide comprehensive sexuality education (CSE), as well as facilitating access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services to learners. We will use WAD to solicit learners' opinions on *how best* to provide CSE and SRH services in schools. This will be done through learners participating in a competition, by (i) responding to questions that will be provided in a leaflet and (ii) by making a quilt to share their views on the matter. The input will be used to inform the Department's implementation of programmes in a learner-sensitive manner.

The national theme for WAD 2016 is ***“It is in our Hands to end HIV and TB: It is in our Hands to Triumph”***.

This year, the DBE will be commemorating World AIDS Day on 02 December 2016 at Albert Moroka High School in Thaba Nchu, Maseru District in the Free State Province. We urge all schools to mark this day in some way. I encourage all learners, educators and officials to participate in the national programme of action in solidarity with the rest of the world.

Let us all commemorate World AIDS Day by:

- Supporting the national efforts towards the prevention of HIV, TB, teenage pregnancy, as well as alcohol and drug use in the basic education sector;
- Encouraging and supporting schools to participate in build-up activities focusing on the theme ***“It is in our Hands to end HIV and TB: It is in our Hands to Triumph”***; and
- Supporting the full implementation of the Care and Support Programmes in schools, in particular the DBE National Policy on HIV, STIs and TB.

The Department on its own cannot address the myriad of social challenges that learners are faced with in their communities. It is for this reason that I call for the support of everybody, especially parents/caregivers and members of the community to join us in the fight against HIV, sexually transmitted infections, teenage pregnancy and Tuberculosis in our schools.

DBE briefs Portfolio Committee on the state of readiness for the 2017 school year

The DBE briefed the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education on the state of readiness for the 2017 school year on 29 November 2016. The major focus has been to identify and deal with issues that have historically impacted negatively on the effective start to the academic year. Some of the key areas of attention include the registration of learners, provision of learner teacher material and ensuring that schools have teachers for all grades and subjects at the start of the school year. Over the past 5 years the sector has made significant progress in streamlining learner admission processes. Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) are expected to release annual admission circulars, determine the period for admissions, and establish provincial and district admission teams.

The placement of learners is still in progress across the country, especially in *hot spots*. Gauteng is experiencing the highest admission challenges. The total applications received for Grade 1 and 8 is 297,505 and only 173,051 learners have been placed. More than 124,400 learners (41%) are yet to be allocated spaces. The Western Cape Province stands at 29,330 in terms of unplaced learners for 2017. School infrastructure is also one of the major deliverables that the Department is paying special attention to, given the complex challenges facing the country. As part of the state of readiness, the Department prioritises the provision of ablution facilities, as well as school furniture for both learners and educators, predominantly in rural areas.

Monitoring will also focus on the school maintenance plans to ensure that the necessary work is done in terms of upgrading and rehabilitation of existing assets and the provision of facilities where these have not yet been delivered. The DBE and the PEDs are committed to continue to fast track the delivery of school infrastructure.



DBE releases school infrastructure delivery reports

The Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga, released the school infrastructure delivery reports detailing the progress made towards the delivery of school infrastructure in South Africa on 29 November 2016.

The education sector has achieved relatively good progress in providing basic services (water, sanitation and power supply) both in terms of actual access to services, but also in terms of operational capacity of the sector to provide these services. The targets as articulated in the *Regulations Relating to Minimum Uniform Norms and Standards for Public School Infrastructure*, is to attain universal access to basic services provision by the 2016/17 financial year. The *Regulations Relating to Minimum Uniform Norms and Standards for Public Schools Infrastructure*, hereinafter referred to as the Norms and Standards were published in Government Gazette No. 10067 on 29 November 2013. The objectives of the regulations can be summarised as follows: to provide minimum uniform Norms and Standards for public schools' infrastructure; to ensure that there is compliance with minimum uniform Norms and Standards in the design and construction of new schools and additions, alterations and improvements to existing schools when the regulations are published; and to provide for timeframes within which school infrastructure backlogs should be eradicated.

The sector provides infrastructure through two programmes: the Provincial Schools Build Programme, as well as the Accelerated School Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (ASIDI). The Provincial Schools Build Programme is implemented by provinces and it targets the provision of basic services, new schools, additions to existing schools, new and upgrading of services and maintenance. It is funded through the Education Infrastructure Grant.

Each Provincial Education Department (PED) is required to submit its infrastructure plan (U-AMP) to the DBE on a set of scheduled dates. Each PED identifies its targets in terms of the 3 year Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and progress is monitored and reported on quarterly.

ASIDI is driven by the DBE to address schools infrastructure backlog on all schools that do not meet the basic safety norms and standards. It is funded through the Schools Infrastructure Backlogs Grant. The purpose of the programme is for the eradication of schools made entirely of inappropriate structures and the provision of basic levels of water, sanitation and electricity to schools.

The two programmes are jointly responsible for the attainment of the targets set in the Norms and Standards and the report is based on projects implemented through both programmes. The reports can be downloaded from the below links:

Resources>Reports<<http://www.education.gov.za/Resources/Reports.aspx>>



DBE/DHET/UNISA Partnership on Teacher Development Centres launched

On 25 November 2016, the DBE, the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) and the University of South Africa (UNISA) launched a partnership on Teacher Development Centres at the Matthew Goniwe School of Leadership and Governance in Benoni. This partnership will help the Department to strengthen digital education across all nine provinces. This partnership, to equip 45 teacher centres with various ICT resources was launched to digitise learning and teaching in schools in order to equip educators and learners with the Information and Commutation Technology (ICT) skills required for adapting to the 21st Century school environment.

The Director for Curriculum and Teacher Development Research at the DBE, Dr Aaron Nkosi, said that the partnership between the DHET and UNISA will assist the Department in accelerating the ICT connectivity in schools. A total of 147 centres have been established to date, with 115 of these centres already fully functional with ICT and video conferencing facilities.

Addressing delegates, Deputy Minister of Basic Education, Mr Enver Surty, mentioned that, “It is within this context that we have been prioritising teacher development. Our first step was the re-training of the 131 Teacher Training Centre Managers and E-Learning specialists, including 40 Teacher Centres supported by Vodacom. *Teacher Centres* is a new term that we are using to refer to District Teacher Development Centres and Provincial Teacher Development Institutes. We did the re-training because we firmly hold a view that the classroom is the centre piece of learning and teaching, and at the core of this learning and teaching is a competent and confident teacher. Teachers are the backbone of any functional education system. It is within this context that we decided that the best way to deliver quality education was to continuously upgrade the content knowledge of those who train other teachers”.

The Deputy Minister further explained that the Department has begun to prepare the full utilisation of these platforms for teacher development. A total of 155 Teacher Centre Managers and E-Learning specialists from all provinces are currently completing a blended learning course at the University of Johannesburg on *Managing and leading digital technologies in education*. The provincial graduation ceremonies will be taking place during 2017.

Click on the below link to read the full article:

<http://www.education.gov.za/ArchivedDocuments/ArchivedArticles/DBEDHETUNISAPartnership.aspx>



Adjudication of Prof Kader Asmal Excellence Award category for 17th Annual NTA finalised



National Teaching Awards

A team of education specialists met at the DBE on 23 November 2016, to review the 17th Annual National Teaching Awards (NTA) provincial profiles submitted for the Prof Kader Asmal Excellence Award category. In this category, provinces are required to submit profiles of candidates meeting the requirements for the national adjudication processes. Professor Kader Asmal was the second South African Education Minister in Democratic South Africa. During his term of office, Prof Asmal worked diligently to ensure that South African education is benchmarked at international levels. Through the

Professor Kader Asmal Excellence Award, the Department seeks to recognise educators who demonstrate the key values that were a hallmark of his leadership: a dedicated educational activist who led by example.

Ms Louise Asmal explained that, “The Prof Kader Asmal Excellence Award is a cornerstone initiative utilised to uplift the morale of the teaching profession. It is used as a platform for appreciation for the sterling work and selfless service he rendered in the transformation of South African education. It is worthwhile to sustain this award because it inspires teachers to aspire towards excellence in their teaching career.”

The Director for Continuing Professional Teacher Development, Mr Haroon Mahomed, commented that, “The NTAs play an important role in education because they recognise and appreciate committed teachers who apply themselves well. The effort invested by provincial officials to coach and mentor candidates, who qualify for the NTAs, is visible in the improvement we have seen during the past few years. Professor Asmal deserves to be honoured; he was an expert, an activist and an intellectual. This Award honours educators who make contributions at political and community levels; educators who win this prestigious award are those teachers who take a stand on social justice issues, such as racism, poverty, gender and disability”.

Apart from the Professor Kader Asmal Excellence Award, the NTAs also play a significant role in recognising and promoting excellence in various areas of teaching specialisation through the following categories:

- Excellence in Primary School Teaching;
- Excellence in Secondary School Teaching;
- Excellence in Primary School Leadership;
- Excellence in Secondary School Leadership;
- Excellence in Grade R Teaching;
- Excellence in Special Needs and Inclusive Teaching;
- Excellence in Technology-Enhanced Teaching and Learning;
- Excellence in Teaching Mathematics (FET);
- Excellence in Teaching Physical Science (FET);
- Lifetime Achievement Award;

The overall adjudication processes for the 17th Annual NTA will be completed in January 2017, with the awards ceremony scheduled to take place during March 2017.



16 Days of Activism of No Violence against Women and Children Breakfast Dialogue unpacks issues on gender violence



Programme Manager and Deputy Director for Gender Equity, Ms Dululu Hlatshaneni, officially opened the 16 Days of Activism of No Violence against Women and Children Breakfast Dialogue at the DBE in Pretoria on 25 November 2016. Ms Hlatshaneni reiterated that combatting violence against women and children is everybody's responsibility and encouraged South Africans to pledge their support in ensuring that the perpetrators are being dealt with. "If we join hands in the fight against the scourge of gender violence, we will be making a contribution in creating violent free societies." Ms Hlatshaneni also acknowledged teachers for their role in addressing gender violence in schools.

Deputy Director-General of Social Mobilisation and Support Services, Dr Granville Whittle, welcomed the delegates and highlighted that the last decade in the fight for gender equity, focussed mostly on the sexual abuse of the girl learner; however, recent studies concluded that boys face increased physical abuse and should be included in this and other similar campaigns.

Sonke Gender Justice represented the NGO sector at the dialogue and advocates for a world where men, women and children can enjoy equitable, healthy and happy relationships that contribute to the development of just and democratic societies. Mr Nkonzo Khanyile, who is responsible for developing training courses for *MenEngage* country networks, represented the organisation. He highlighted the important role of mentorship and role models to combat violence.

Ms Ntando Buthelezi from the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (*DPME*), *touched on the findings of the Root causes of violence study commissioned by the Inter-Ministerial Committee titled, South African Integrated Programme of Action Addressing Violence Against Women and Children (2013-2018). She focused her presentation on the finding of the Diagnostic Review of the State Response to Violence against Women and Children* draft report, which was finalised in October 2015 by KPMG. The study looked into the programmes of ten government departments, including the DBE, to examine prevention, intervention and support provided to victims of abuse. Although legislation is adequate, the interpretation thereof is problematic and greater political will and leadership is required, along with the clarification of issues and definitions. There is a shortage of social workers, magistrates, psychologists and forensic nurses to deal with the scourge.

Many citizens remain scared to report crimes because of the victimisation of witnesses, whilst those who suffered violence in homes become perpetrators and resort to bullying. Unemployment is also a national challenge, but it has been established that community projects and institutions are helpful and become places of hope and refuge for the victims. These sentiments were echoed by Ms Neliswa Cekiso, Director of Child Protection Services at the Department of Social Development, who attended to support the dialogue but also to assist in pointing out areas of collaboration between government stakeholders, the NGO sector and communities. The Diagnostic Report will be officially released once approved by Cabinet.

Click on the below link to read the full article:

<http://www.education.gov.za/ArchivedDocuments/ArchivedArticles/16DaysofActivism.aspx>



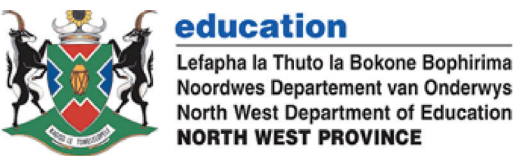
Provincial Round-up

Eastern Cape



The Eastern Cape Provincial Education Department held a two day Matthew Goniwe International Teacher Awards ceremony from 30 November to 01 December 2016. The awards were preceded by a memorial lecture at the Walter Sisulu University in Mthatha. The awards are an annual event to recognise educators who excelled in various categories, including community upliftment and development. The second leg of the awards will be held at a gala dinner at the Mqanduli Community Hall, where top learners will be awarded bursaries to further their studies, preferably in the teaching profession.

North West



The North West Education and Sport Development Department is saddened by the death of an employee from the Rabonni Private Christian School in Brits, who was allegedly gunned down by two learners on 23 November 2016. The learners were arrested on the school premises. The North West Education and Sport Development MEC, Mr Sello Lehari, conveyed his condolences to the family and the school. A memorial service was held at the school on the 28th of November 2016 and the funeral will take place on 05 December 2016.

Northern Cape



The Northern Cape Provincial Education Department awarded its dedicated teachers during the recent prestigious Provincial Teachers Awards held at the Flamingo Casino outside Kimberley. Eight teachers competed in different categories, tough adjudication processes to come out tops to represent the Province in the 17th Annual NTAs. The ZF Mgcawu District teachers dominated the awards ceremony by scooping 6 out of 8 awards. Some of the categories they won include: Excellence in Mathematics Teaching (FET), Excellence in Physical Science Teaching (FET) and Excellence in Primary School Leadership. Speaking at the awards, MEC for Education, Ms Martha Bartlett said: “Through the Northern Cape Provincial Teaching Awards, we are actualising the NTA’s aim and objectives to recognise and promote excellence in teaching performance so that our teachers feel valued by the system”.

Upcoming Events

- 01 – 02 December 2016: Minister Motshekga meets with District Directors at the Saint George's Hotel and Conference Centre in Pretoria in the Gauteng Province
- 01 December 2016: World AIDS Day
- 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 17th 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.

