



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



NEWSLETTER



Message from the Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga

Greetings Colleagues,

I want to start by thanking all of you for a busy, but relatively major disruption free year. We had challenges to deal with but in the main they were unrelated to education and therefore out of our control such as the devastating school disruptions in Vuwani.

We have accomplished a lot and it is even hard to believe that another year has actually gone by so quickly. It speaks to the limited amount of time we have, to do an immense amount of work and the need to utilise every opportunity to maximum effect.

NSC – Leaked Paper

We just completed our National Senior Certificate Examinations. So far it has gone relatively well with only one major incident reported and that was the leaking of the Mathematics paper 2 which was uncovered at Giyani High School in the Limpopo Province.

This incident was incredibly disappointing and extremely frustrating to say the least. However thanks to swift action by education officials and the police we have seen an important arrest made of a suspect who is facing serious criminal charges as a result.

Marking is currently under way in all the provinces and I look forward to announcing the results on the 4th of January 2017. As has become normal our colleagues in exams don't get a break during this period and an extra thank you goes to these dedicated officials.

International Assessments

Colleagues, it is very encouraging to see our progressive and continuous improvement in International Assessments. The improvement seen in TIMSS 2015 is testament to the hard work and dedication of all in the sector and I am appreciative of all the efforts and interventions that have informed these improvements. It is exciting to know that we can, slowly but surely turn the education system around.

In closing I want to once more thank everyone for the hard work we have all put into this school year. I would like to wish you all good luck for what is left of the year and hope you have a relaxing holiday period. We all need to come back refreshed in the New Year ready to tackle the new challenges we find in 2017.

Thank you.

Message from the Editor

Mr Elijah Mhlanga, Chief Director: Media Liaison and National and Provincial Communication



From a communications perspective it has not been an easy year for the Department of Basic Education to say the least. The news related to education matters has seen the communications team traveling the length and breadth of the country to deal with one crisis after the next.

The community protests in Vuwani, Limpopo have been by far one of the most challenging and often left us feeling slightly hopeless because there was very little we could do as the education sector to intervene.

The protests in the Northern suburbs of PE also kept us busy, however in that situation the Department was at least able to intervene to try and resolve some of the challenges that emerged, and assist the province to move forward.

We were incredibly confident that there wouldn't be any challenges with this year's National Senior Certificate, thus making it incredibly disappointing when we uncovered the leaked examination paper in Giyani.

We cannot forget about the release of the "Jobs for Cash" report which has seen many baying for blood, especially in the opposition benches. However this can be seen as a good news story in the sense that the Department was able to address some of the challenges head on and make interventions to improve the HR process of recruiting teachers and promotional posts especially.

I would be amiss if I didn't mention the deadline for the implementation of the infrastructure norms and standards. This has been a three year process; we knew full well that Equal Education was counting down towards the deadline, hoping that we would fail. I have to say I think they were bitterly disappointed. The Minister has taught me that with every crisis comes an opportunity, and this gave us the opportunity to show case the brilliant work we have done in terms of infrastructure delivery in the past three years. From ASIDI's one school a week handovers of state of the art schools, to rolling out sanitation and coming up with innovative water solutions for schools. We have been able to showcase the progress that has been made under difficult circumstances.

All of these we could not have dealt with efficiently as communications if it wasn't for the support and assistance from every single official. Without the rest of the Department providing us with the relevant information we would not have been able to do our job from an informed perspective.

There have also been some exciting highlights; the National Teachers Awards have become an event that many look forward to. It is now a prestigious not to be missed calendar event where we are able to celebrate the best of the best. I am not sure if we will be able to continue to improve because this year's event was not only trending on social media, but the prizes were defiantly worthy of the accolade, step aside idols... It's the NTA's.

Choral music is another spectacular that has grown from strength to strength and with the support of the Motsepe Foundation it looks set to rise.

The Second Chance Matric Programme has gotten off the ground this year with the provincial road shows being incredible exciting and providing real hope for those who in the past have been unable to get their NSC in the past. The advocacy has been going incredibly well and I look forward to working on this going forward.

There are many more exciting projects and events, too many to mention, but one that feels important is the *Read to Lead and Libraries Campaign*, this is something that as communications we will build into every aspect of our work. It continues to be something that is very important for our educational goals and is going to be with us for the foreseeable future.

Once again from the *Thuto* team a big thank you to each and every person who made our job as communicators easier. We will be back at the beginning of the year preparing for the release of the NSC 2016 results. Have a blessed and safe festive season.

World AIDS Day is commemorated at Thaba Nchu in the Free State Province

World AIDS Day was observed globally on 01 December 2016. Albert Moroka High School at Thaba Nchu in the Free State Province, hosted the 2016 DBE World AIDS Day (WAD) commemoration on 02 December 2016. The lively event was held at the Barolong Cultural Village and was attended by officials from the Free State Provincial Education Department, School Governing Body (SGB) members, principals, learners and educators from six primary and three secondary schools. The DBE theme for WAD 2016 is “*It is in our hands to end HIV and TB; It is in our hands to Triumph*”, a rallying call for all our learners, teachers, parents, caregivers, officials and the community to play an active role in ending HIV and TB by 2030, as directed by the *National Development Plan* (NDP). South Africa is a proactive country that has tackled HIV head-on through a strong partnership between Government, civil society, business and labour.

As a build-up towards the commemoration, Grade 8 to 11 learners from 14 schools in the Motheo District were engaged in competitions to demonstrate their understanding of the drive to end HIV and TB. Grade 10 to 11 learners were asked to provide and to substantiate their views on the provision of comprehensive sexuality education, as well as sexual and reproductive health services in schools. Their input will be analysed and used to inform the implementation of DBE programmes. The competition required learners to respond through the making of a quilt or the design of a postcard. The Province adjudicated all entries and the top schools received awards in the two categories. In addition, all the participating schools received certificates of acknowledgement from the DBE, as well as a medal from the Province.

The keynote address by Ms Bukelwa Qwelane, Director of Inclusive Education in the Province, emphasised the need for the Department and for schools to work with the Departments of Health and social partners to provide sexual reproductive health services to learners. Ms Qwelane called on the School-based Support Teams to create an enabling environment that is learner-friendly, to provide the required support.

A dialogue with learners on the topic of condom distribution in schools was facilitated by peer educators. Learners of all ages participated enthusiastically, expressing varied opinions. Learners also rendered various forms of entertainment, such as poetry, traditional dancing and musical items in line with the theme of taking responsibility and not succumbing to peer pressure.

Boitumelong Special School was the first place winner in the quilt category - receiving a laptop for their efforts. The second place winner of an iPad was Refentse Primary School, and Tshipinare Primary School, who finished in third position, received a Smart Phone.

In her closing remarks, the Circuit Manager reminded the learners about their engagement during the build-up activities, and said that 02 December 2016 should mark a turning point for each individual, and for the community of Thaba Nchu in eliminating HIV and TB.



DBE and the Department of Sport and Recreation South Africa to host 5th National School Sport Championships

The Department of Sport and Recreation South Africa, in partnership with the DBE, will host the School Sport Championships, referred to as the summer games, at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg from 10 to 15 December 2016.

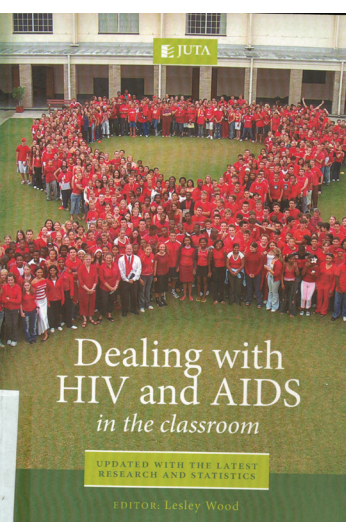
Being hosted on a national level, the tournament targets more than ten thousand learners from across all nine provinces. Apart from being utilised as a mechanism for promoting social cohesion, the summer games also provide learners with an opportunity to showcase their sporting talents whilst encouraging them to lead a healthy lifestyle. During this tournament all learners, including boys and girls, will participate in sixteen priority codes and nine indigenous games. The *National Sport and Recreation Plan* was approved by Cabinet during April 2012. The first South African National School Sport Championships was subsequently hosted during December 2012 and 2016 will see the 5th National School Sport Championships bringing together school learners across South Africa to compete in the games.

The 2016 Championships model change was brought about after the Director-General of Sport and Recreation South Africa, Mr Alec Moemi, established a Task Team to carefully consider the National Championships model and recommendations were made for the Championships to take place during three seasons: the autumn, the winter and the summer games from 2016 onward.



IRC Book Review

World AIDS Day, which is commemorated on 01 December 2016 annually, is an opportunity for every community to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for people living with HIV and to remember those who have died. World AIDS Day is important as it reminds us that there is a need to increase awareness, fight prejudice and improve education to maintain and achieve the aims and objectives of the country as set out in the *National Strategic Plan on HIV, STIs and TB 2012-2016*. The Information Resource Centre (IRC) therefore focussed on the following books to create awareness around the issues of HIV and AIDS:

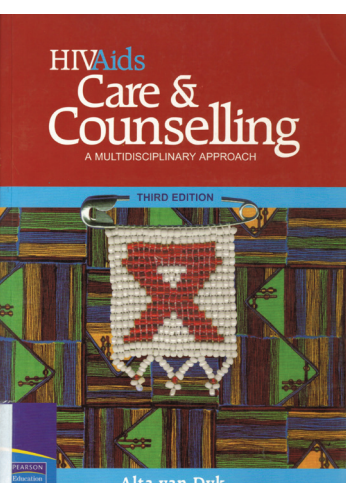


Dealing with HIV and AIDS in the Classroom

Author: Wood, L

Dewey number: 362.1969792 WOO

Much has been written about how parents, children and educators are infected or affected by HIV and AIDS. However, little has been offered in the way of practical, pedagogical and emotional help for teachers dealing with HIV and AIDS in the classroom. This updated book is an attempt to help those teachers cope on a day-to-day basis. This revised edition of *Dealing with HIV and AIDS in the Classroom* was inspired by reflections, comments and photographs provided by real teachers who created a new understanding of what it is like to be a teacher in a world where HIV and AIDS are prevalent.



HIV / AIDS Care and Counselling: a multidisciplinary approach

Author: Van Dyk, A

Dewey number: 362.1969792 VAND

This title provides knowledge, skills and support for every aspect of living with HIV and AIDS: for the people whose lives are touched by HIV and AIDS, those who are HIV-positive themselves, and those who deal with people who have HIV or AIDS on a daily basis.

Upcoming Events

- 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.