



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



NEWSLETTER

President Zuma addresses delegates during the Basic Education Sector Lekgotla



Education delegates were reminded about the importance of education as an apex priority, as well as their role in providing quality education, when the President of the Republic of South Africa, His Excellency Mr Jacob Zuma, addressed stakeholders during the second day's proceedings of the Basic Education Sector Lekgotla, held at the Saint George Hotel in Pretoria on 24 January 2017.

"Education is a ladder out of poverty and economic stagnation and a weapon for the economic liberation of the poor. This gathering illustrates the importance of education, and a reason for stakeholders to come together to brainstorm solutions for education in the interest of strengthening and improving the education system for the wellbeing of our children," said President Zuma in his opening address.

President Zuma called for a return to the values that Oliver Tambo stood for during this year's commemorative celebrations of the stalwart's 100th birthday. Tambo was a teacher and BSc graduate in Mathematics and Physics at the University of Ford Hare. "He is the perfect role model for all educators in our country; the youth should study his life for inspiration and advance his legacy," said President Zuma.

President Zuma highlighted progress made in education during the past 22 years, namely the Accelerated Schools Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (ASIDI), which provides state-of-the-art schools to communities; the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) providing over 9 million learners with a nutritious daily meal; No Fee Schools providing free education to more than 9 million learners; the 150 million Workbooks distributed to Grade R to 9 learners since 2009; and Operation Phakisa to accelerate the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in education. The President congratulated the Class of 2016 on the improvement in the National Senior Certificate (NSC) results and called on the education sector to do more to improve learner outcomes in Mathematics, Science, Accounting and Languages; and to improve reading and literacy throughout the system. President Zuma called upon parents to read to their children and encourage them to read.

President Zuma urged all stakeholders to work together to prevent dropout rates in schools and to develop concrete plans to improve the results in underperforming districts. He emphasized that accountability should be prioritised throughout the education system and that this should start by making principals and school management teams accountable for zero pass rates. In conclusion, President Zuma thanked the Teachers and Teacher Unions, School Principals, School Governing Body (SGB) Associations, Learner formations and civil society who contributed to the basic education sector as a whole: "Working together we will ensure that our schools produce learners who contribute to nation building and prosperity when they graduate".

Ensuring Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education and the Promotion of Lifelong Learning for all



In pursuit of capitalising on the gains that the Department of Education has made, as reflected in the 2015 Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), the Southern and Eastern Africa Consortium for Monitoring Education Quality (SACMEQ) IV and the 2016 National Senior Certificate (NSC) results; and in raising the bar for improvement, the Minister and Deputy Minister for Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga and Mr Enver Surty, together with the Director-General for Basic Education, Mr Mathanzima Mveli, hosted a Basic Education Sector Lekgotla at the Saint George Hotel in Pretoria from 23 to 25 January 2017. The theme for the Lekgotla was Raising the bar to realise inclusive and equitable quality education and the promotion of lifelong learning opportunities for all. The programme was structured around four sub-themes, namely: Setting the scene; Identifying Subject Specific Challenges and Strategies; Consolidation of Implementation; and Improving Quality and Efficiency.

The objectives of the Lekgotla were, amongst others, the alignment of Basic Education Sector deliverables to the National Development Plan (NDP) goals; the analysis of the 2016 National Senior Certificate (NSC) results; a focus on subject specific challenges and strategies; and the strengthening of the implementation of Improvement Plans; as well as the interface between national, provincial, district and school levels. During the interactive sessions, officials reached agreement that more emphasis should be placed on Foundation Phase and Intermediate Phase teaching to prepare learners for the Senior Phase.

Amongst those attending the Lekgotla were the Honourable President of the Republic of South Africa, His Excellency Mr Jacob Zuma, Members of Provincial Executive Councils (MECs) presiding over Education, Heads of Provincial Education Departments (HoDs), Departments of Basic and Higher Education and Training, Provincial Education Department officials, representatives from Teacher Unions, the Human Science Research Council (HSRC) and the National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT).

In her address, Minister Angie Motshekga said that the Lekgotla involves all education stakeholders who have a valuable contribution to offer in improving quality education in this country. “We certainly have started 2017 on a positive note. The early indications from the school functionality visits show that it is all systems go for the Class of 2017. However, history has taught us that to sustain the positive momentum; the consistent monitoring of functionality issues is required.”

Minister Motshekga added that the Department will continue to work hard in improving learner performance in Mathematics, Physical Science and Languages. “We must do more to address poor learner outcomes in Mathematics, Physical Science and Languages. We must intensify our efforts to ensure that our learners have age-appropriate reading and numeracy skills.” The Minister mentioned that the Lekgotla should assist the Department in developing programmes to retain learners in schools: “We convened this Lekgotla to address learner dropout rate and grade repetition. We must accelerate progress in the implementation of the National Strategy for Learner Attainment (NSLA) as an overarching Integrated Framework to address all issues that contribute to under-performance in the system. It is clear that, if we are to further improve the outputs of the schooling system, we will have to continue to improve the fundamental quality of learning and teaching well before Grade 12. Therefore, the most important priority must be to improve the quality of learning and teaching in the early Grades to ensure that learners are equipped with the skills needed to cope with the curriculum requirements of the higher Grades,” concluded Minister Motshekga.

Basic Education and the Department of Science and Technology visit Diesploot Combined School in the Gauteng Province



The 2017 School Readiness Back-To-School oversight and monitoring visits have continued with inter-departmental collaborations which have forged mutual associations amongst various education stakeholders who share a common goal in improving quality learning and teaching in the country. Minister of Science and Technology, Mrs Naledi Pandor, visited Diepsploot Combined School in Johannesburg on 13 January 2017, to monitor the school readiness for the new academic year. In her visit, the Minister explored various learning barriers that might prevent learners from acquiring knowledge in the area of ICT due to a lack of necessary resources. Minister Pandor mentioned that she will be working closely with the DBE in ensuring that the school's computer laboratory becomes fully operational.

Minister Pandor, together with the Gauteng MEC for Education, Mr Panyaza Lesufi, also donated a mobile library to the school as part of the *Read to Lead Campaign*. These mobile libraries were donated to schools as part of the partnership between the DBE and AVBOB to make a culture of reading a reality. In her address, Minister Pandor expressed her appreciation to Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, for having ensured that all children have access to basic education, despite their colour, race and financial backgrounds. Furthermore, the Minister acknowledged all teachers for their selfless service in instilling discipline, humanity and respect in learners to become more accountable and responsible. "Good academic results can only be achieved if you concentrate on your school work right from the beginning of the year," Minister Pandor said. The Minister emphasised that education shapes the character of the nation and added: "You have to read more books if you want to succeed in life". Minister Pandor congratulated the Class of 2016 for having achieved good results during the NSC Examinations. The Minister said that, although Government has made some headway in improving learner performance in Mathematics and Physical Science, more work still needs to be done to improve learner achievement in these gateway subjects: "When I look at you, I see future medical doctors, engineers and accountants. I therefore urge you to co-operate with your teachers and study hard in order to reach your dreams," concluded Minister Pandor.

Deputy Minister concludes 2017 *back to school* visits in Mpumalanga and Western Cape Provinces



Deputy Minister for Basic Education, Mr Enver Surty, concluded the 2017 *back to school* visits in the Mpumalanga and Western Cape Provinces on 16 and 17 January 2017. The Mpumalanga MEC for Education, Ms Reginah Mhaule, accompanied Mr Surty to Tenteleni Primary School in Kanyamazane in the Mpumalanga Province where the Deputy Minister seized an opportunity to address the learners. Deputy Minister Surty was impressed with the discipline and dress of the learners: “This is a good characteristic that will guarantee success,” said Mr Surty. The occasion was also marked by the hand-over a mobile library to the school. Ms Mhaule said that, “We are encouraging learners to develop a reading culture; and the parents to read to their children to spark their interest in reading”.

The Deputy Minister also visited Stintile Secondary School where he addressed the Grade 12 Class of 2017. An excited school learner, Mthunzi Thabete, conveyed her gratitude on behalf of all the Grade 12 learners at the school: “Today is a very special day because the Deputy Minister came to address our school. We are committed to achieve a 100 percent pass rate this academic year”.

On 17 January 2017, the Deputy Minister visited Ned Doman High School in the Western Cape Province which managed to obtain a 100 percent pass rate in the 2016 academic year. The school was also presented with a mobile library. Mr Surty said that the visit to Ned Doman was mainly to congratulate the Class of 2016 with their achievement: “Most of the learners commute to this school where social economic challenges are rife; and not withstanding these, each and every learner was able to succeed in terms of the quality of the passes - more than a third had achieved Bachelors passes”. The Deputy Minister expressed his gratitude to the leadership of the school. Ned Doman High School is an inclusive school which also provides learning opportunities to learners with special education needs.

The Deputy Minister also visited ID Mkize High School in Gugulethu where he managed to address and monitor almost all the classes and engaged with the management team of the school to assist in providing solutions to their various challenges. Government interventions have led to continuous improvements in the education system, as reflected in the steady increase in the overall matric pass rate. Inspired by the *National Development Plan* (NDP) which calls for a joint national initiative to drive efforts to improve learning outcomes in schools, government will convene a *National Development Plan 2030 Back to School Imbizo Week* at the end of February 2017.

Development and Support Intervention Programme for Mathematics and Physical Science in under-performing districts bears fruit



The DBE is implementing an intervention programme for ten (10) under-performing districts across the country. The second session of the National Senior Certificate (NSC) Development and Support Programme for Mathematics and Physical Science teachers (Grades 11 and 12) in these districts is taking place from 26 to 28 January 2017. The training is taking place in the districts for teachers to have easy access the training sites. A hundred Mathematics and a hundred Physical Science teachers have been identified in each of the 10 districts, which totals 2000 teachers.

The programme addresses poor learner performance at NSC level, which remains a critical factor in the provision of quality learning and teaching. Although learner performance in most subjects shows an improvement, learner performance remains evidently low in Mathematics and Physical Science. The Teacher Development Implementation Directorate headed by Mr Phillip Dikomo, is conducting the 15 total days' training for the identified teachers over a period of 12 months, with the aim to assist the schools in improving their performance during the 2017 National Senior Certificate examinations.

Mathematics and Physical Science concepts that require attention were identified with the help of subject specialists using the NSC diagnostic reports. The 2017 portion of the training will incorporate a rich component of ICT-integration in the form of a *Paper Video* for Mathematics teachers. The *Paper Video* was piloted in 2015 at four District Teacher Centres in four provinces; and it entails the use of a smart phone or laptop to access consolidation and revision material in four subjects, namely, Mathematics, Physical Science, Life Science and Accounting. The pilot was well received by both teachers and subject advisors and was acknowledged as potentially effective for revision by learners and teachers.

Continued monitoring and support by provincial and DBE officials are built into the programme to ensure sustainable and visible change in the improvement of performance.

Preparations for the National Teaching Awards underway



The DBE is currently busy preparing for the 17th Annual National Teaching Awards (NTAs), which is scheduled to take place in the Gauteng Province during March 2017. The DBE's Continuing Professional Teacher Development Directorate conducted the national adjudication processes at the Protea Hotel OR Tambo International Airport from 15 to 22 January 2017 to identify the winning candidates who will be honoured during a gala awards ceremony.

The NTAs was conceptualised and launched during 2000 and is one of the ways in which the DBE acknowledges and encourages dedicated and caring teachers in their efforts to develop each learner as a citizen of a democratic, non-racial and non-sexist South Africa. The adjudication process of the Prof Kader Asmal Excellence Award category was completed at the DBE in Pretoria on 23 November 2016.

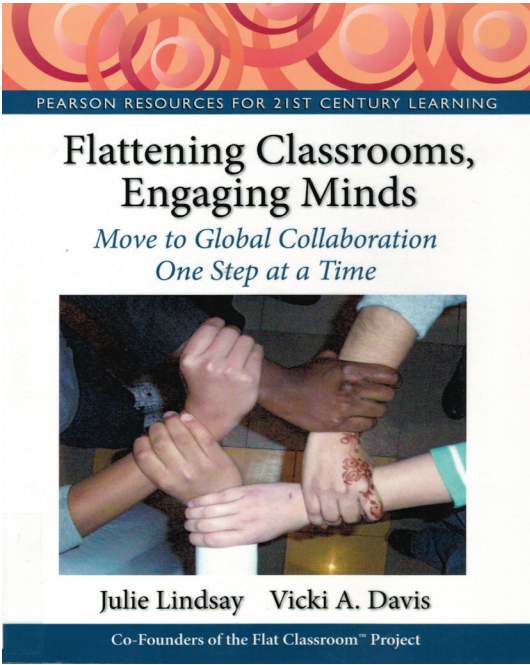
The Director for Continuing Professional Teacher Development, Mr Haroon Mahomed, said: "The awards recognise the role of teachers in schools and appreciate their efforts and dedication in turning the schooling system around. The top three winners in each category will receive generous prizes." Mr Mahomed also added that the NTAs are utilised to strengthen school leadership and management, quality teaching in primary and secondary schools, quality teaching in Mathematics and Physical Science, as well as improving the implementation of ICT in public schools, amongst others. Mr Mahomed congratulated all the finalists and thanked the education stakeholders who made the NTAs possible: "The standard of presentations during the adjudication processes has shown an improvement this year. I have no doubt that our learners are in good hands; thumbs up to all our teachers for their commitment to transforming the education system. We thank all the schools, districts, provincial and DBE officials, as well as partners for their contributions". The awards consist of the following categories, aimed at promoting excellence in various areas of teaching specialisation:

- 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);
- Prof Kader Asmal Excellence Award; and
- The Lifetime Achievement Award.

IRC Book Review

In the spirit of learners and teachers returning to the classroom for the 2017 academic year, the Information Resource Centre (IRC) offers the following books to transform teaching and learning in the classroom:

Flattening Classrooms, Engaging Minds - Move to Global Collaboration One Step at a Time

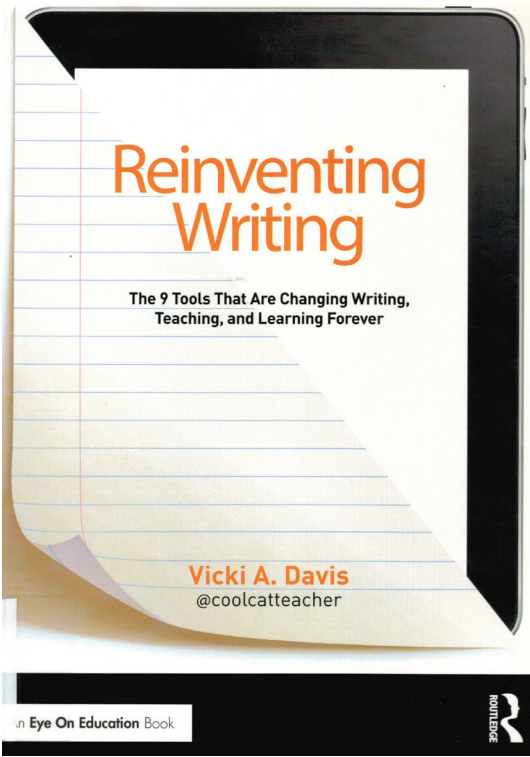


Author: Lindsay, J.

Dewey number: 371.334 LIN

This title presents a seven-step approach to transforming teaching using current pedagogies, technology tools and global collaboration to create standards aligned, technology rich, online, collaborative, cross-cultural learning experiences that enhances 21st century student engagement.

Reinventing Writing -The 9 Tools that are Changing Writing, Teaching, and Learning Forever

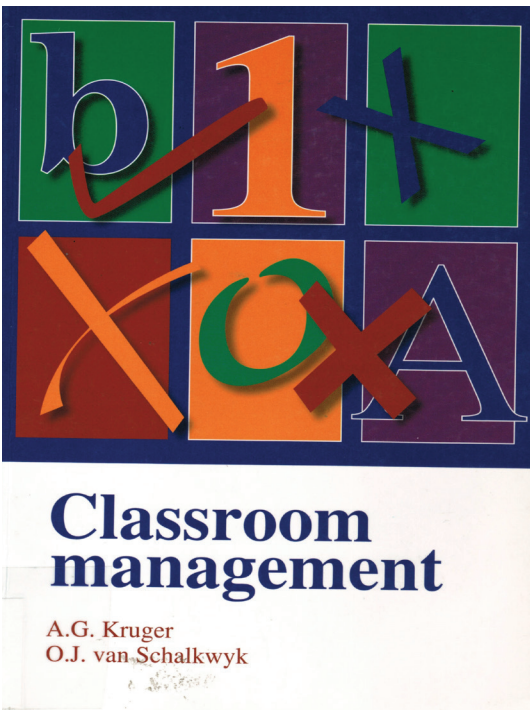


Author: Davis, A.

Dewey number: 371.334 DAV

In this much-anticipated book from acclaimed blogger Vicki Davis (Cool Cat Teacher), you'll learn the key shifts in writing instruction necessary to move students forward in today's world. Vicki describes how the elements of traditional writing are being reinvented with cloud-based tools. Instead of paper, note taking, filing cabinets, word processors and group reports, we now have tools like ePaper, eBooks, social bookmarking, cloud syncing, info graphics and more. Vicki shows you how to select the right tool, set it up quickly and prevent common mistakes. She also helps you teach digital citizenship and offers exciting ways to build writing communities where students love to learn.

Classroom Management

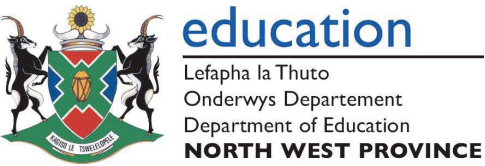


Author: Kruger, A.G.

Dewey number: 371.1024 KRU

Problems that face teachers and educators today include the lack of sound culture of teaching and learning in the classroom, the lack of student discipline and poor classroom management skills. The revised edition of classroom management presents a new and comprehensive approach to the ever-important subject of a teacher's task in the classroom, and deals with a number of new and relevant topics, particularly in view of the demands made on teachers in the new South Africa.

Regional Round-up



The North West Provincial Government is aiming to improve the overall performance of schools and matric results in rural areas through the Department of Education and Sport Development, by taking decisive action to provide sufficient education resources to schools in the province's villages, townships and small *dorpië*s (VTSD). The Premier called a recent meeting in Rustenburg to thank school principals, teachers, School Governing Bodies (SGB) and parents for the support shown to learners during the 2016 academic year, and to encourage everyone to continue enforcing efficiency and discipline at all schools. The focus on rural schools is consistent with the provincial government's VTSD strategy and its efforts to fight poverty. This will also help to ensure that quality teaching and learning takes place at all schools in the province. The province achieved a pass rate of 86.2% in the 2016 matric exams and is satisfied with school readiness, with 98% of schools across the province having received the learner support materials they require.

Upcoming Events

- 30 January – 02 February 2017: National Core Training Team Workshop for School Libraries and Reading Promotion
- 30 January 2017: Minister Angie Motshekga to visit Vuwani in the Vhembe District, Limpopo Province
- 31 January 2017: Minister Angie Motshekga to visit the Lebowakgomo District, Limpopo Province
- 31 January 2017: Closing date for the submission of public comment to the draft policy on the Provision of Quality Education and Support and the Learning Programme for Children with Severe to Profound Intellectual Disability
- 09 February 2017: President Jacob Zuma to present the State of the Nation Address in Parliament, Cape Town
- 21 March 2017: Human Rights Day
- 07 April 2017: Closing date for the submission of the 2017 Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secondary Schools Essay Competition entries to the Provincial Education Departments
- 27 April 2017: Freedom Day



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.



