



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



NEWSLETTER

Director-General's 2017 provincial engagements



Taking his cue from the Minister of Basic Education, Mrs AM Motshekga, MP, that in 2017 there should be two provincial engagements with school principals, district and provincial officials, the Director-General of Basic Education, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mweli began the first phase of day-long meetings in February 2017. The aim of the engagements is mainly to provide detailed province specific analysis of both the 2015 Trends In Mathematics Science Study (TIMSS) report and the National Curriculum Statement 2016 results. The desired outcome is that the different layers in the education system will be able to use the analysis to develop credible plans to improve educational outcomes for their respective provinces. Twenty-seven engagements are planned to reach all provincial and district officials; and both primary and secondary school principals across the nine provinces. In the next semester (August – October 2017), follow up engagements will take place with the same audience which will then deal with the state of readiness to determine progress made in implementing improvement plans.

The importance and impact of these engagements are not to be underestimated, as they serve to provide direction, leadership, inspiration and a shared vision, geared towards improved quality education, at all levels of the system. Some comments from the participants at the meetings held thus far attest to the value of these engagements. Readers are encouraged to watch this space as feedback from each province will be made available from this platform at the conclusion of the engagements in each province.

In this week's edition, the engagement with the Free State Province is featured. The provincial engagements in the Free State took place at two venues, namely Bloemfontein and Kroonstad on 13 and 14 February 2017 respectively. The meetings were attended by 207 officials and 1,304 principals from Thabo Mofutsanyana, Motheo, Xhariep, Lejweleputswa and Fezile Dabi districts.

Click on the below link for additional information:

<http://www.education.gov.za/Home/ProvincialEngagementswithDistrictofficialsandschoolprincipals.aspx>

Ms Peggy Nkonyeni appointed Chairperson of the South African National Commission for UNESCO



The President of the South African National Commission for UNESCO, and Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga, has appointed Ms Peggy Nkonyeni as the new Chairperson of the South African National Commission for UNESCO. Ms Nkonyeni succeeds Mr Yousuf Gabru whose four-year term has come to an end.

The South African National Commission for UNESCO was established by *Cabinet Decision 9 of 1996*, and placed under the auspices of the former Department of Education, to report to the Minister through the Director-General.

Ms Nkonyeni has significant leadership experience after serving as a Member of the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Provincial Legislature, a Member of the KZN Executive Council, KZN MEC of Health, Speaker of the KZN Provincial Legislature and KZN MEC for Education. Minister Motshekga and the National Commission Secretary-General, Mr Carlton Mukwevho, wish Ms Nkonyeni well in her new responsibility.

Learning Through Playing: Online training for Early Development and Foundation Phase launched



The DBE, in partnership with UNICEF, the LEGO Foundation and Cotlands, has developed *Powerful Learning Around You* (P.L.A.Y.) which is a free in-service training course that compliments existing and formal training, and is accredited with the South African Council of Educators (SACE). The initial testing phase was launched by The Council for Education Ministers (CEM) and went live on 09 March 2017 at www.playsa.org.

Evidence shows that a play-based approach to learning allows children to better understand mathematical and language concepts; and to become creative, solution-oriented learners who are prepared for the opportunities and challenges of the 21st Century. The act of play performs a critical role for children to develop the intellectual, emotional, social and creative skills needed to build the foundation for human development and lifelong learning. Neuroscience has taught us that the brain is primed through play; that play increases the complexity and capacity of neural pathways; that play increases the production of the neural transmitters that enhance brain functioning; and play decreases the production of stress hormones.

The aim of P.L.A.Y. is to provide in-service training to 42,000 Early Childhood Development (ECD) practitioners, 23,000 Grade R educators and 85,000 Grade 1 to 3 educators over the next two years. This programme also aims to strengthen the inclusion and utilisation of play as a powerful tool and method of early learning and development. As a result, P.L.A.Y. will be used to contribute to children's growth, health, nutrition and protection as part of national policies, curricula and programmes for children from birth to nine years old.

On-line registration can be done through any mobile device or computer. This step is then followed by a five hour face-to-face orientation session. These will be conducted throughout the country, utilising, amongst others, the Teacher Development Centres as resources. Thereafter, on-line training will commence including theory, practice and assessment. Upon completion, the trainees will receive a certificate that will earn them Continuing Professional Teacher Development (CPTD) points from SACE, thus linking it to formal recognition and professional development.

"The foundations that we lay in ECD and the Foundation Phase through P.L.A.Y. will have an impact on the future careers of children; learning in the early years and the starting point for future engineers, doctors and teachers", said Minister Motshekga.

According to Dr Mamiki Maboya, Deputy Director-General for Curriculum Policy, Support and Monitoring: "This model of in-service training that we are launching today has all the potential to be a game changer in the manner in which the we can shape a large part of the in-service training programme to reach all educators – even in the most remote areas".

Click on the below link to read the full article:

3rd Annual Physical Education Symposium encourages physical education in schools



3RD ANNUAL PHYSICAL EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM

SATURDAY 01ST – SUNDAY 02ND APRIL 2017
08H00
HPC, PRETORIA UNIVERSITY

Healthy, Able and Active Citizens: The Importance of Physical Literacy

RSVP on or before Monday, 27th March 2017 to info@peisa.co.za

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 **Physical Education Institute**
of South Africa

The DBE, together with the Physical Education Institute of South Africa (PEISA), will host the 3rd Annual Physical Education Symposium from 01 to 02 April 2017 at the University of Pretoria High Performance Centre (HPC) in Hatfield, Pretoria. The theme of the Symposium is: *Healthy, Able and Active Citizens: The Importance of Physical Literacy*.

The annual symposia are central to a series of established Physical Education advocacy and sector mobilisation campaigns, to be held as part of the DBE - PEISA annual calendar, including being an integral part of the national Physical Education Month and Physical Education Day celebrations: observed annually from 06 April to 10 May 2017.

The 2017 Physical Education Symposium will be underpinned by the recently launched UNESCO Quality Physical Education (QPE) policy revision project. The QPE project was launched by UNESCO in partnership with the European Commission, the International Bureau of Education (IBE), International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education (ICSSPE), International Olympic Committee (IOC), Nike, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations International

Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO), to support five countries (Fiji, Mexico, South Africa, Tunisia and Zambia) in developing inclusive, child-centred Physical Education policies which will help promote physical literacy and values-based learning as part of rounded development and global education priorities.

ABC Motsepe Schools Eisteddfod promotes social cohesion in schools



**ABC
MOTSEPE
SCHOOLS
EISTEDDFOD**



The strategic aim of the DBE's ABC Motsepe Schools Eisteddfod is to promote unity in diversity, national reconciliation, social cohesion, as well as the creation of a national identity among young South Africans of school-going age. The Eisteddfod works towards this vision by addressing embedded cultural, traditional and indigenous messages and meanings that promote nation-building to create a sense of belonging and to help define a South African national identity. It is organised and co-ordinated as part of the national celebrations and commemorations of national events of historical significance in our democratic country.

The 2017 ABC Motsepe Schools Eisteddfod will be hosted from 04 to 07 July 2017 in Gauteng Province. The 2016 ABC Motsepe Schools Eisteddfod took place at Rhema Ministries in Randburg from 28 June to 01 July 2016, and ended on a high note with the North West Provincial Education Department being awarded as the best performing province for the year. This prestigious annual choral competition, which is hosted by the DBE, in partnership with the Motsepe Foundation and the Department of Arts and Culture, is also aimed at promoting a spirit of Ubuntu and cultural tolerance amongst the youth of South Africa.

The Chairperson and founder of the Motsepe Foundation, Mr Patrice Motsepe, said that competitions such as the Eisteddfod are critical because they prepare learners to become responsible leaders of tomorrow. Mr Motsepe stated that music has always played a crucial role in our upbringing and said it needs to be sustained to ensure the holistic development of our learners in schools. Mr Motsepe added that the Foundation will continue to work with the Department in ensuring that all learner support programmes are effectively implemented in schools.

The competition rules, as well as the prescribed music are available on the below Thutong Portal link:

<http://www.thutong.doe.gov.za/Default.aspx?alias=www.thutong.doe.gov.za/schoolenrichment>

South Africa Library Week encourages a culture of reading



The Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA) is driving South Africa Library Week (SALW) from 18 to 24 March 2017, as a celebration of our country's intellectual and literacy heritage. SA Library Week was initiated in 2001 by LIASA to be a commemorative period recognised by Government when all types of libraries across the country utilise it as an opportunity to market their services in an effort to contribute to the understanding of the important role that libraries play in a democratic society, advancing literacy, making the basic human right of freedom of access to information a reality, and to promote tolerance and respect among all South Africans.

"My Library, Your library", the theme for 2017, strives to awaken a sense of ownership in each community member as a reminder to all library users that the library is a communal space shared by everyone. Furthermore, we celebrated Human Rights Day on 21 March and our *Bill of Rights* recognises the freedom of access to information as a basic human right. We are therefore able to link an important historical event with a crucial commemorative date in our new democracy.

SALW also supports the *Read to Lead Campaign*, which was officially launched by the Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga, on 22 July 2015. The focus of the Campaign is to improve the reading abilities of all South African children whilst the main aim of the Campaign is to ensure that all learners are able to demonstrate age appropriate levels of reading by 2019. Reading is a foundational skill on which all other learning is built and creates the opportunity for access to career opportunities and for individuals to effectively participate in a democracy. The Campaign calls on a variety of partners and stakeholders to engage in developing and maintaining a reading culture. In working towards achieving this aim, the Department is also hoping that in the long term, a culture of reading will be reflected in sustained activities in schools, homes and communities across South Africa.

Regional Round-up

Northern Cape



During the coming years, the DBE will build on its successes in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as the *National Development Plan* (NDP), *Vision 2030* for access, participation and gender equity. The emphasis will be on the quality of schooling outcomes and on the preparation of young people for opportunities after they leave school. The Department of Basic Education (DBE) has, to this end, developed three streams of curricula (Academic, Vocational and Technical), which address the diverse needs of young people for learning and development in South African schools. The DBE is working with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) to better influence the quality and preparation of our teachers, and ultimately, our learners, in critical subjects including Mathematics, Science and Technology, and the African Languages.

The *2017 Apply Now/Khetha Career Guidance Campaign*, which runs nationally between March and September, is aimed at encouraging current matric learners to apply on time for admission to post-school institutions for the following year. The Career Guidance component of the campaign seeks to inform learners from Grade 9 to 12 about career choices available within the PSET sector. The DHET launched the *2017 Apply Now/Khetha Career Guidance Campaign* by visiting three schools in the Ga-Segonyana Local Municipality in Kuruman, Northern Cape Province, on Friday, 17 March 2017; namely, Phakane Secondary School, Galaletsang Science High School, and KP Toto Technical and Commercial Secondary School. The *Apply Now/Khetha Career Guidance Campaign* is aimed at encouraging secondary school learners to apply on time for admission to post-school institutions and thus avert possible stampedes and long queues that take place at Higher Education Institutions at the beginning of each academic year. The career guidance component of the campaign seeks to inform learners about career choices available within the post-school sector.

Upcoming Events

- 24 March 2017: Director-General, Mr Mathanzima Mwel, to continue his Provincial Engagement Visits at Mthata Trinset College in Umtata, Eastern Cape Province
- 25 March 2017: 17th Annual National Teaching Awards in Gauteng Province
- 28 March 2017: Director-General, Mr Mathanzima Mwel, to continue his Provincial Engagement Visits at the Diamantveld High School in Kimberley, Northern Cape Province
- 28 March 2017: A National Round-table on the Rights and Responsibilities for Religious Conduct in Learning Environments will be hosted at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 29 March 2017: Director-General, Mr Mathanzima Mwel, to continue his Provincial Engagement Visits at Upington High School, Upington, Northern Cape Province
- 30 March 2017: 17th Annual National Teaching Awards Broadcast on SABC 2 at 22:00
- 03 April 2017: A Multi-grade Toolkit workshop in support of Multi-grade schools will be hosted in Gauteng Province.
- 07 April 2017: Minister Angie Motshekga to host the 2nd National Education Excellence Awards at the Saint George Hotel and Conference Centre in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 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
- 11 April 2017: 17th Annual National Teaching Awards Repeat Broadcast on SABC 2 at 10:30
- 14 April 2017: Good Friday
- 17 April 2017: Family Day
- 27 April 2017: Freedom Day
- 25 May 2017: Africa Day
- 27 May 2017: A special Africa Day commemoration will be taking place at Freedom Park in Pretoria in honour of the late Oliver Reginald Tambo
- 29 July – 19 August 2017: National Schools Moot Court Competition essays are to be submitted to the University of Pretoria / www.schoolsmoot.co.za
- 19 August – 22 September 2017: The hosting of the provincial rounds of the National Schools Moot Court Competition
- 04 – 08 October 2017: The National Schools Moot Court Competition finals to be hosted at the University of Pretoria and the Constitutional Court in Johannesburg



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.

