


basic education

 Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO

NEWSLETTER

Education DialogueSA: National Public Policy Symposium on Basic Education



The Department of Basic Education (DBE), led by Minister Angie Motshekga, together with the National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT), and supported by the Education Labour Relations Council (ELRC), held an Education DialogueSA: National Public Policy Symposium on Basic Education on 12 June 2017, at the Kopanong Conference Centre in Benoni, Gauteng Province.

The key issues that arose from the discussions were social ills such as bullying, learner pregnancy and violence in schools that frequently plague the sector. All stakeholders need to work together to strengthen the education system for a holistic approach to these matters. Other pertinent issues that were raised included the lack of a reading culture amongst learners, as well as issues of equity, quality and inclusivity.

Issues on Early Childhood Development (ECD) were also thoroughly deliberated on. The quality of Grade R teaching and learning is not standardised and the quality of ECD teachers needs to be improved through formal training. Many ECD Centres are also not formally registered with the Department of Social Development.

Minister Motshekga emphasized the need for Government to improve on access. School systems should therefore to be aligned so that any learner can easily integrate from one school or province to another.

Professor Brian Soudien, CEO of the Human Science Research Council (HSRC), delivered his address with a focus on the South African Schools Act (SASA), calling for School Governing Bodies (SGBs) to turn schools into better functioning structures. Prof Soudien also listed the importance that language plays in education and learning.

The delegates were indicated their general satisfaction with the performance of the education sector, both nationally and provincially, and agreed with Minister Motshekga that the focus should be on the implementation of policy.

The Department of Basic Education participates in the 8th SA AIDS Conference



Deputy Minister of Basic Education, Mr Enver Surty, hosted two satellite sessions at the 8th South African AIDS Conference that took place at the Durban International Convention Centre (ICC) on 14 June 2017, to update stakeholders on the significant progress that has been made by the DBE in terms of strengthening sexuality education within the basic education sector. The satellite sessions saw the launch of the *DBE National Policy on HIV, STIs and TB*, and the release of the *Health of Educators in Public Schools in South Africa 2016 Report*.

The new policy proposes a paradigm shift to approach the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and Tuberculosis (TB) as an organisational risk and a core management issue rather than only as a health concern, therefore making it a priority within all public and independent schools in the Republic of South Africa. The scope of application is widened to all learners, educators, school support staff and officials in the basic education sector in order to employ a sustained response for the sector to contribute meaningfully to the implementation of the *National Strategic Plan on HIV, TB and STIs, (2017-2022)*.

The policy satellite session, attended by 300 stakeholders, took place in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and discussed the critical pillars of the implementation of the new policy; covering strengthening sexuality education in Life Orientation from Grade 1 to 12, access to sexual and reproductive health services through schools, and imperatives for health and wellness programmes for staff (educators and officials).

The Chief Director for Care and Support in Schools at the Department of Basic Education (DBE), Dr Faith Kumalo, stated that, “the DBE has been responding to the HIV and AIDS challenge since 2000 through the implementation of the *HIV and AIDS Life Skills Programme*. However, with the evolution of the HIV epidemic over the past decades, and in response to the stubborn problem of unacceptably high levels of new HIV and TB infections in South Africa, the DBE has reviewed the 1999 *National Policy on HIV/AIDS for Learners and Educators in Public Schools, and Students and Educators in Further Education and Training Institutions* in order to inform an evidence-based approach to the sector’s programmes for impact”.

Click on the link for the full article: (<http://www.education.gov.za/ArchivedDocuments/ArchivedArticles/8thSAAIDSConferencetotakeplaceinDurbanduringJune2017.aspx>)



UNESCO - leading the co-ordination and monitoring of the Global Education 2030 Agenda



The Education Sector of the South African National Commission for UNESCO met on 09 June 2017 under the newly appointed Chairperson, Mr Joe Samuels. Mr Samuels was appointed as Chairperson of the Education Sector Sub-committee by Minister Angie Motshekga for a period of four years. The Sector Committee unanimously elected Mr Ghaleeb Jeppie from the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) to serve as the Deputy Chairperson of the sector.

Since 2015, UNESCO has a new role of leading the co-ordination and monitoring of the *Global Education 2030 Agenda*. The vision of the education sector is captured in *Sustainable Development Goal 4*, which aims to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”.

UNESCO maintains close relations with Education Ministries and other partners in 193 countries and therefore UNESCO is in a key position to implement action and change. Another important aspect to note is the links that UNESCO maintains with civil society through the collective consultation with NGOs on the education sector who are involved as partners in programme delivery, advocacy and awareness-raising activities. Furthermore, a *Framework for Action for 2017/2018* will seek to engage with all South African stakeholders on the four areas of priority: the Southern Africa Regional Strategy on Higher Education; the Southern Africa Regional Strategy on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET); the Southern Africa Regional Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD); and the Southern Africa Regional Strategy on Literacy.

Africa Public Service Day to be commemorated on 23 June 2017

Life and legacy of
OR TAMBO.
100 YEARS



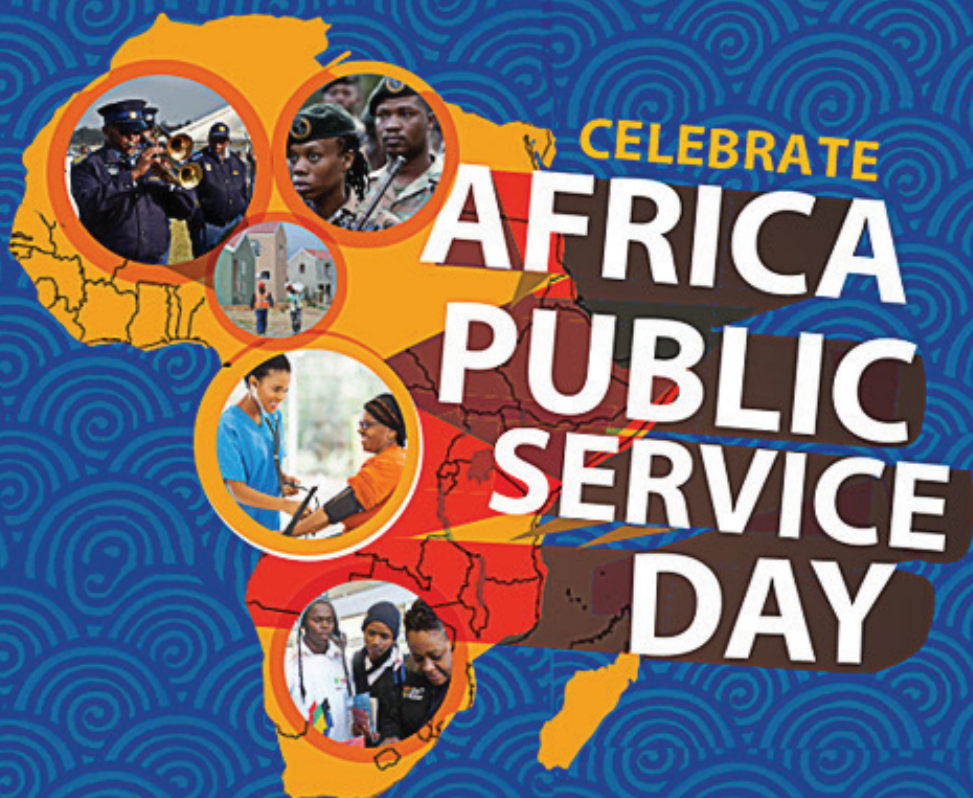
The year 2017 has been declared the year of OR Tambo and all Government programmes should emulate the example of this liberation stalwart. Tambo was, amongst others, an educator and the values that he lived by should apply to all teachers and DBE officials. In order to achieve quality education for all, dedicated and steadfast educators and public servants are required.

Africa Public Service Day is an event entrenched in the African Union (AU) calendar. It originates from the conference of African Ministers for Public and Civil Service held in Tangier, Morocco in 1994. It was agreed at this conference that 23 June should be celebrated annually as Africa Public Service Day to recognise the value and virtue of service to the community. It is also a platform to reflect and share practical recommendations on women empowerment in public service nationally and across the continent.

South Africa has, through the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA), co-ordinated and participated in national and Continental Africa Public Service Day (APSD) activities under an annual common theme since inception.

The objective of APSD is the provision and delivery of value for money and quality public service to Africa's citizens; and for South African public servants this includes the achievement of the goals set out in the National Development Plan (NDP), the Africa Service Charter and the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. It further provides an opportunity for public servants to promote values such as professionalism, accountability, responsiveness and ethics in moving the Public Service forward, both nationally and across the continent under the theme: "Entrenching a citizen-centred service delivery culture: Partnering with the youth for Africa's transformation".

The South African APSD celebrations will culminate into a celebration at the Department of International Relations and Co-operation (DIRCO) Conference Centre in Pretoria on 23 June 2017. The 6th biennial continental event will take place in Kigali in the Republic of Rwanda from 21 to 23 June 2016 under the theme: "Entrenching a Citizen-Centred Service Delivery Culture: Partnering with the Youth for Africa's Transformation". The subthemes are: "Nurturing a culture of professionalism and ethical values in Africa's Public Service" and "Partnering with the youth to build a responsive and sustainable Public Service; and Leveraging ICT skills and innovation for quality service delivery". This is an opportunity for public servants to share innovations and to reflect on challenges and to share best practices across the continent for other African Union Member States to learn from.



**"ENTRENCHING A CITIZEN-CENTRED
SERVICE DELIVERY CULTURE:
PARTNERING WITH THE YOUTH
FOR AFRICA'S TRANSFORMATION"**

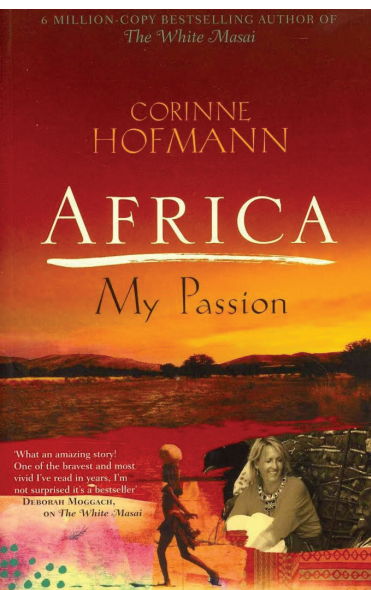
23 June 2017

We Belong, We Care, We Serve

IRC Review

Africa Month was celebrated during the month of May to encourage all Africans to: “Build a better Africa and a better world”. As we are moving towards Africa Public Service Day on 23 June 2017, let us not forget that our mission, as African citizens and basic education sector officials and stakeholders, is to shape the future of Africa and her youth during Youth Month. The Information Resource Centre (IRC) therefore encourages all officials to indulge in the multiple resources that are available for information, support, motivation and positive action:

Africa, my Passion

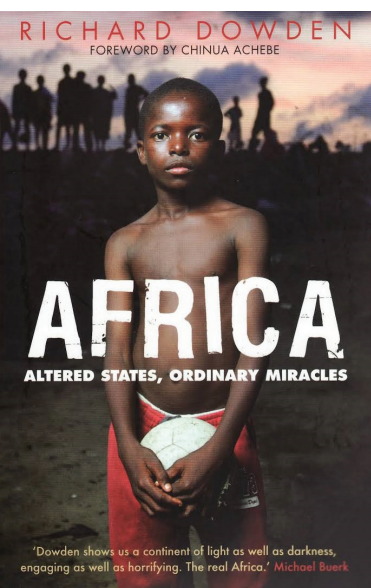


Author: Hofmann, C

Dewey number: 910.4 HOF

Africa, my passion is a poignant, touching and exciting story about one woman's love affair with a unique man, which led to a lifelong obsession with Africa. Moving, vividly recounted, eye-opening and, above all, filled with passionate hope and unparalleled detail.

Africa: Altered States, Ordinary Miracles



Author: Dowden, R

Dewey number: 320.96 DOW

For the past three decades, Richard Dowden has travelled this vast and varied continent, listening, learning, and constantly re-evaluating all his experiences. Country by country, he has sought out the local and the personal, the incidents, actions, and characters to tell a story of modern sub-Saharan Africa - an area affected by poverty, disease and war, but also a place of breath-taking beauty, generosity and possibility. The result is a landmark book, compelling, illuminating and always surprising. This revised edition has an additional chapter on Ethiopia and has been updated throughout to reflect changes such as the death of Nelson Mandela and the attack on the Westgate Mall in Nairobi. It also includes two new maps and a new final chapter considering the shape of Africa's future.

Regional Round-up



Northern Cape

The partnership between the Northern Cape Department of Education and the Namibian Ilkharas Regional Council Directorate of Education Arts and Culture has moved to a new level in a bid to save the Khoekhoegowab language. The Khoekhoegowab is one of the oldest indigenous languages of South Africa, and is being reintroduced to the various communities in the region. Learners, accompanied by educators and officials, toured the ZF Mgcwau and Namaqua Districts to raise awareness on the reintroduction of the Khoekhoegowab language to schools and communities. The seven day roadshow mainly focused on rural areas where Khoekhoewab is still used as the preferred language of communication. Areas visited included AJ Ferreira High School in Upington, as well as the Riemvasmaak and the IKhibus communities where the learners recited poetry and participated in the performing arts, depicting the Nama culture and the Khoekhoewab language.

Upcoming Events

- 13 – 15 June 2017: The DBE is participating in the 8th South African AIDS Conference in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal Province
- 14 June 2017: The provincial rounds of the Youth Citizen Action Programme (Y-CAP) to be hosted at Platoran Special School in Belfast, Mpumalanga Province
- 16 June 2017: The provincial rounds of the Youth Citizen Action Programme (Y-CAP) to be hosted at the Kimberley Teachers Centre, Northern Cape Province
- 21 June 2017: The provincial rounds of the Youth Citizen Action Programme (Y-CAP) to be hosted in Polokwane, Limpopo Province
- 23 June 2017: Africa Public Service Day
- 23 – 24 June 2017: The provincial rounds of the Youth Citizen Action Programme (Y-CAP) to be hosted at the Mocoseng Downside Resort in Mmabatho, North West Province
- 24 June 2017: Presidential Siyahlola Monitoring Programme Visit to Lusikisiki, Eastern Cape Province
- 27 June 2017: The provincial rounds of the Youth Citizen Action Programme (Y-CAP) to be hosted in East London, Eastern Cape Province
- 30 June – 2 July 2017: The provincial rounds of the Youth Citizen Action Programme (Y-CAP) to be hosted in Gauteng Province
- 01 July 2017: The provincial rounds of the Youth Citizen Action Programme (Y-CAP) to be hosted in the Fezile Dabi District, Free State Province
- 04 – 07 July 2017: The ABC Motsepe Schools Choral Eisteddfod National Championships to take place at the Rhema Bible Church, Gauteng Province
- 28 – 30 July 2017: The National Championships of the Youth Citizen Action Programme (Y-CAP) to be hosted at the Garden Court Hotel in Durban, Kwa-Zulu Natal Province
- 29 July – 19 August 2017: National Schools Moot Court Competition essays are to be submitted to the University of Pretoria
- 09 August 2017: National Women’s Day
- 19 August – 22 September 2017: The hosting of the provincial rounds of the National Schools Moot Court Competition
- 23 September 2017: The 2017 National Spelling Bee Competition to be hosted at the University of South Africa (UNISA)
- 24 September 2017: Heritage Day
- 27 September 2017: World School Milk Day will be celebrated in the Western Cape Province
- 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
- 05 October 2017: World Teachers’ Day
- 09 – 15 October 2017: A National Nutrition Week Commemoration will be taking place under the theme: “Rethink your drink – Choose Water” in the Gauteng and North West Provinces
- 09 - 22 October 2017: A National Nutrition Week “So Chef” workshop will be taking place in partnership with the French Embassy in four provinces (Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape and Western Cape) and in five cities (Johannesburg, Pretoria, Durban, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town)
- 01 – 31 March 2018: School Governing Body (SGB) Elections

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.