



**basic education**

Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**THUTO**



## NEWSLETTER

# Safety in rural communities headlines the agenda during the Presidential Siyahloa Monitoring Programme in the Eastern Cape Province



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, together with Eastern Cape MEC for Education, Mr Mandla Makupula, and various government officials, joined President Jacob Zuma in Lusikisiki in the Eastern Cape Province on 25 June 2017, to monitor the status of basic service delivery in the Province. The visit was part of the President's Siyahloa Monitoring Programme aimed at improving service delivery in communities across the country. During this visit, the President ensured the community of Lusikisiki, including its learners, that safety is one of Government's priority programmes and that community members will need to work hand in hand with Government to promote safer environments in their respective school communities.

The improvement of school infrastructure, education management and governance, as well as school safety took centre stage during the visit. In his address, the President said that Government will accelerate basic service delivery to rural communities by ensuring that important services such as education, health, water and community safety are given special attention. Government is currently delivering newly built schools in the Eastern Cape Province as part of the Accelerated Schools Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (ASIDI). These schools have become a beacon of hope for the majority of learners in rural communities as they no longer have to travel long distances to and from schools to acquire free quality basic education.

During the visit, DBE officials engaged with Lusikisiki community members on various Departmental programmes that have been initiated to support learners in advancing their academic goals. Information on the Second Chance Matric Support Programme, the Funza Lushaka Bursary Programme and the Teacher Recruitment Database was distributed whilst showcasing the sterling work the DBE has been involved with to improve quality education in the country.



# 2017 Joint meeting of the SADC Ministers responsible for Education and Training, Science, Technology and Innovation in Manzini, Swaziland



Ministers of Basic Education and Science and Technology, Mrs Angie Motshekga and Mrs Naledi Pandor, joined other Southern African Development Community (SADC) Ministers of Education and Training, Science, Technology and Innovation for the annual joint meeting that took place in Manzini, Swaziland from 22 to 23 June 2017. Minister Motshekga was supported by the Director-General of Basic Education, Mr Mathanzima Mwel and other senior officials.

The meeting focused on the progress review of the implementation of the Education and Training and Science, Technology and Innovation Programmes within the context of the *Revised SADC Regional Indicative Development Plan (RISDP) 2015-2020*. Several other matters discussed include the SADC Qualifications Framework; vocational education and training; distance education and learning; as well we care and support for teaching and learning in schools. The meeting also discussed the implementation of key continental instruments such as the *African Union Agenda 2063* and the *Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA) 2016 - 2025*.

In this meeting South Africa took over chairship of the 2018 Joint Meeting of the SADC Ministers of Education and Training, Science, Technology and Innovation, that will be held in South Africa. This comes after the 36<sup>th</sup> Ordinary SADC Head of States and Governments Summit, that took place during August 2016 in Swaziland, elected South Africa as the next chair of SADC from August 2017 to August 2018.

Minister Motshekga will co-chair the 2018 Joint Committee of the Ministers of Education and Training, Science, Technology; along with the Ministers of Higher Education and Training and Science and Technology, Dr Blade Nzimande and Mrs Naledi Pandor.

Minister Motshekga also attended the 11th session of the Southern and East African Consortium for Monitoring Educational Quality (SACMEQ) Assembly of Ministries of Education in Southern and Eastern Africa, which preceded the SADC joint meeting and took place on 21 June 2017. SACMEQ serves to expand opportunities for educational planners to gain technical skills required to monitor and evaluate the general conditions of schooling and the quality of basic education in their respective systems. In addition, SACMEQ generates information that can be used by decision-makers to plan and implement improvements in their education systems. During this meeting, SACMEQ presented the findings of the SACMEQ IV study, surveying the conditions of schooling and the quality of education across all member states of the SACMEQ.

Minister Motshekga welcomed the findings of the study and affirmed concerns raised in the study, specifically with regards to the HIV prevalence and the need to revive the awareness around HIV and AIDS to the level of significance that it truly deserves among societies. The South African Ministry of Basic Education is planning to announce the National SACMEQ IV report during 2017.

## ASIDI hands over three new schools in Lusikisiki





The Eastern Cape MEC for Education, Mr Mandla Makupula, officially handed over three new schools in Lusikisiki to the community of the Eastern Cape Province during the week of 19 June 2017. The new schools, Gcinilifu High School and Mali Primary School in Flagstaff and Kwa-Ndumiso Primary School in Tshonya, were delivered as part of the ASIDI Programme. The Programme replaces schools built from inappropriate materials to restore the dignity of education in rural communities. To date, the DBE has handed over 179 new schools in all nine provinces. The Programme envisages the completion of a further 110 schools during the current financial year.

In his address, MEC Makupula stated that the new schools are being delivered to improve quality learning and teaching and urged teachers to spend quality time teaching. Mr Makupula further called upon parents to co-operate with teachers to ensure that learners receive the necessary support both at school and at home.

All ASIDI schools include an administration block, a science laboratory, a multi-media centre, a Grade R centre, a nutrition centre and a computer laboratory, along with access to water, sanitation and electricity.

## National Schools Hygiene and Sanitation Programme launched



The DBE, in partnership with Unilever, officially launched the Unilever *National Schools Hygiene and Sanitation Programme* for improved hygiene and sanitation habits in schools with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at Skeen Primary School in Alexandra, Johannesburg on 26 June 2017. The Programme encourages learners to wash their hands before eating, brush their teeth daily and adopt a healthy lifestyle.

The DBE and Unilever have agreed on a five-year partnership to implement the Programme, which involves a 21 day in-class behavioural change campaign, the *Proven 21 Day Behaviour Change Model*, as well as the provision of soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes to 15,000 public primary schools in all nine provinces during September 2017. The Programme is further aimed at decreasing preventable infections in learners and to improve school attendance with product provision from Lifebuoy, Domestos and Mentadent to enable the practise of improved hygiene habits.

In her address, Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga mentioned that, “the Council of Education Ministers (CEM) approved the Care and Support for Teaching and Learning (CSTL) Framework which has two flagship programmes, namely the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) and the Integrated School Health Programme (ISHP), as joint initiatives with the Departments of Health and Social Development”, further indicating that this programme is vitally important as it inculcates healthy and hygienic habits in learners.

“The Programme is designed to help kids stay healthy and obtain a better education by avoiding the kinds of preventable infections that often mean they miss school,” said Paul Polman, Global Chief Executive Officer of Unilever. “It’s great to see this partnership being implemented nationally, along with the DBE after our successful pilot in 31 schools last year as Unilever is strongly committed to such partnerships with our portfolio of sustainable living brands to help build a brighter future for all South Africans”.

## Provincial graduation ceremonies for *Short Course Learning Programme in Managing and Leading Education with Digital Technologies*





The DBE, in partnership with the University of Johannesburg (UJ), Vodacom and UNICEF is currently hosting provincial graduation ceremonies for graduates who have completed the blended university-accredited *Short Course Learning Programme (SLP) in Managing and Leading Education with Digital Technologies*. The first of these award ceremonies took place in Rustenburg, North West Province on 19 June 2017 and in Johannesburg, Gauteng Province on 20 June 2017.

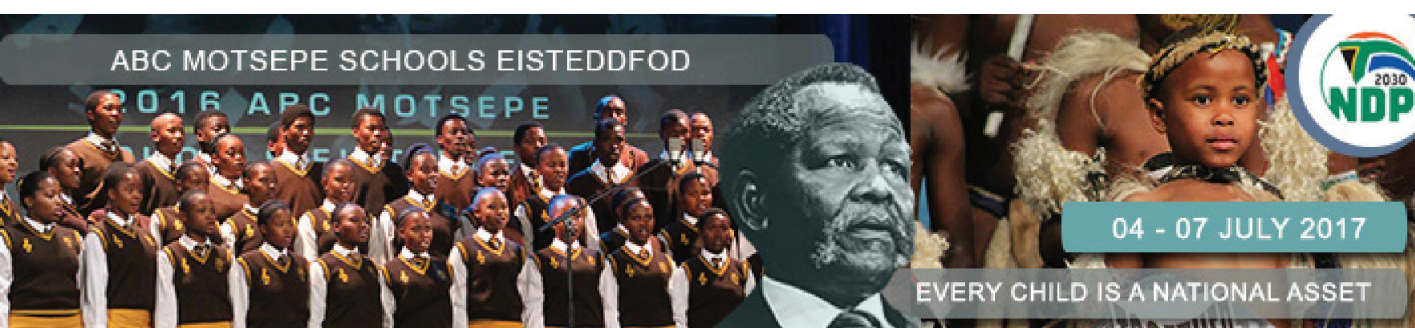
The course was presented at the UJ Auckland Park Campus in Johannesburg from 11 to 14 July 2016 and then continued as an online, virtual course from 15 July to 30 November 2016.

“The e-learning specialists and Centre Managers who successfully completed the 30 credits post-graduate diploma are on the right track towards meeting the demands of the digital revolution of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century to create Information and Communication Technology (ICT) compliant teachers. This digital revolution is characterised by a fusion of technologies that is blurring the lines between the physical, digital and biological spheres,” said Dr Aaron Nkosi, Director for Curriculum Research at the DBE.

Mr Enoch Rabotapi, Acting Chief Director for Education Human Resource Development at the DBE also presented the 2011 Integrated Strategic Framework for Teacher Education and Development, the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA) 2063, which is a 50 year strategy during the graduation ceremonies. Rabotapi mentioned that “the ideals of CESA are to create quality citizens by 2063, and the success of the strategy depends largely on how we structure and implement our educational system. The quality of the educational system depends on the quality of its teachers; if we want to improve human capital, we need to continuously invest in our human resources. We are relying on yourselves, through the centres that you are managing, as well as the e-Learning Specialists to make sure that we address some of the challenges that we have in our educational system”.

In conclusion Mr Rabotapi mentioned that the national graduation ceremony will be taking place at UJ in Gauteng on 26 July 2017.

## ABC Motsepe Schools Eisteddfod promotes social cohesion in schools



The 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 through choral music. 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.

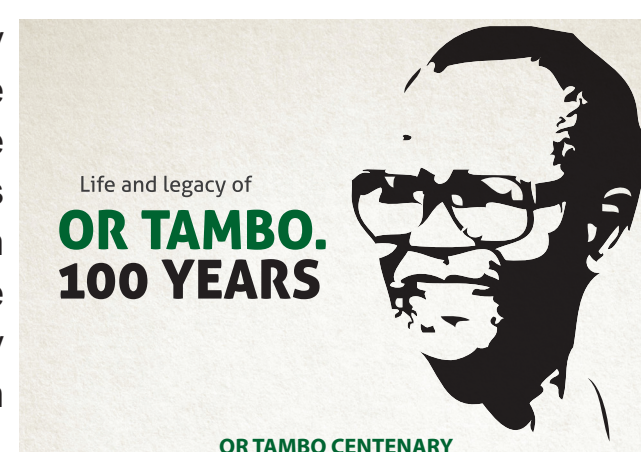
The 2017 ABC Motsepe Schools Eisteddfod will be hosted from 04 to 07 July 2017 at Rhema Ministries in Randburg, Gauteng Province. This prestigious annual choral competition, which is hosted by the DBE, in partnership with the Motsepe Foundation and the Department of Arts and Culture, is also aimed at 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.

## Youth Month: Being young, gifted and South African



Various youth development programmes are currently being highlighted during Youth Month to initiate conversations on the role of South African youth in the transformation of the country. The focus for this year’s Youth Month centres around active citizenry, education and skills development, entrepreneurship, as well as the values advocated during the Oliver Tambo centenary celebrations: “The Year of OR Tambo: Advancing Youth Economic Empowerment”.



“The month of June is therefore a celebration of the principle of change imbedded in youth. It is a necessary process of metamorphosis for all who endeavour to reach their full potential and this ideal, which carries a dream from its objective to its subjective expression,” says Mr Reitumetse Rapulane from the DBE’s Social Cohesion Directorate.

“The journey towards this ideal can be long. In a statement at the Plenary Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly that took place in New York on 26 October 1976, OR Tambo said the following: *‘We will create a South Africa in which the doors of learning and of culture shall be open to all. We will have a South Africa in which the young of our country shall have access to the best that mankind has produced, in which they shall be taught to love their people of all races, to defend the equality of the peoples, to honor creative labor, to uphold the oneness of mankind and to hate untruth, obscurantism, immorality and avarice’.*”

“As a South African youth, I ask myself if I personally embody such values as to love people of all races, to defend the equality of the people, to honour creative labour, to uphold the oneness of mankind and to hate untruth, obscurantism, immorality and avarice. The youth has the potential of turning this ideal into reality. The excitement of change in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, along with the possibilities that the energy of the new generation brings, can result in the realisation of this ideal, rather than its degeneration. The journey towards this ideal is perhaps long, but attainable.”

## Regional Round-up



### education

Department:  
Education

#### PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

##### KwaZulu-Natal

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Education, Mr Mthandeni Dlungwana, launched the Winter Schools Programme at the Pinetown District Hall in Pinetown, on 26 June 2017 as an intervention programme aimed at improving the performance of learners. The winter classes will be targeting high enrolment subjects such as Mathematics and Science, along with subjects that impacted on the overall learner performance in previous years, to ensure that learners are provided with dedicated support on a continual and sustainable basis whilst preparing for the 2017 National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examinations.



# Upcoming Events

- 29 – 30 June 2017: Minister Angie Motshekga to meet with District Directors at the DBE in Pretoria
- 29 June – 01 July 2017: Sasol Inzalo Technical Teachers Conference in Secunda
- 30 June – 02 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
- 09 – 14 July 2017: The South African School Sport National Championships (Winter Games) to take place at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal Province
- 18 July 2017: Nelson Mandela International Day
- 26 July 2017: Nelson Mandela Day Celebration and official handover of the NSNP Best School and District Awards in partnership with Nestlé SA at Makeneng Primary School in the Thabo Mofutsanyana District, Free State 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
- 01 – 03 October 2017: The Transnet Rural and Farm Schools National Tournament to take place at the Germiston Stadium, Gauteng Province
- 02 – 07 October 2017: The Sanlam Kay Motsepe Schools Cup National Championships to take place in Johannesburg, Gauteng 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)
- 23 October 2017: Start of the 2017 National Senior Certificate Examinations
- 28 November 2017: End of the 2017 National Senior Certificate Examinations
- 10 – 14 December 2017: The South African School Sport National Championships (Summer Games) to take place in Cape Town, Western Cape Province
- 04 January 2018: Ministerial Announcement of the 2017 National Senior Certificate Examination Results
- 17 January 2018: Start of the 2018 Academic School Year
- 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.