



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



NEWSLETTER

Telkom announces major investment in education



Telkom, through the Telkom Foundation, on Wednesday, 19 July 2017, announced a major investment in education when it pledged more than R200 million over the next five years to contribute towards improving the quality of teaching and learning with a specific focus on Mathematics, Science and English in disadvantaged communities. The programme will be rolled out in the Eastern Cape and Gauteng Provinces. The programme kicked off in Tshwane West where five schools received high-tech infrastructure as part of Telkom's Connected Schools Programme (CSP).

At the event, Telkom also announced its Supplementary Programme to support Grade 8 learners through to matric to improve the quality of their pass rate. Approximately R130 million of the total investment will be used for the Supplementary Programme, which includes the training of teachers. This also includes a focus on the psycho-social element, which aims to sustain the learners' performance through support and understanding the effect their home environment can have on their academic performance and life skills. The next area to be targeted will be Port Elizabeth with the rest of the country benefiting from a phased roll out. The programme aims to benefit 3,000 learners in year one with 934 learners currently taking part.

Each of the five schools will receive the upgrade to meet the 21st century look and feel with new furniture and a computer laboratory for 50 learners. Approximately 943 learners and 60 teachers will receive 2-in-1 tablets and 60 laptops, which are loaded with educational content. The computer laboratories will be protected by 24-hour security.

"It has been made very clear that we have a significant skills gap in South Africa, as well as a lack of connectivity in certain areas. While the focus on subjects such as Mathematics and Science at school level has increased, this has not been supported by actual large-scale investment. We are changing that. Through this type of investment, we are training learners and teachers, equipping schools and supporting the DBE by creating environments which encourage growth and development," commented Mr Siphosiso Maseko, Telkom's Group CEO.

Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga, said: "The use of Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) in education is increasingly becoming an important medium for complementing the delivery of curriculum in most developing countries, and most definitely for our country. Therefore, the continuous and valued contribution by Telkom to assist the Department in placing key ICT devices in the hands of our teachers and learners, has the potential to break the digital divide and indeed assist us in improving the ICT professional development of all teachers involved".



Deputy President hands over new ECD centre in Mookgophong as part of the Nelson Mandela Day celebrations



Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, joined by Basic Education Deputy Minister, Mr Enver Surty, handed over the Ramadimetja Sophia Mogotlane Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centre to the Mookgophong community in the Limpopo Province on 18 July 2017. Deputy Minister Surty also dedicated 67 minutes of his time painting a dedicated wall at the ECD Centre.

The ECD Centre, which was donated by the Cipla Foundation, came into being as a result of a call by Deputy President Ramaphosa on World Tuberculosis (TB) Day for the creation of ECD facilities in areas with a high TB burden, with a particular focus on children under the age of five. The Cipla Foundation is responsible for manufacturing world class generic medicines and antiretroviral drugs, which are supplied to the African continent.

The strengthening of access to quality education for children in their first five years of their schooling remains one of the DBE's most essential undertakings to improve the quality pass rate as these learners progress to higher grades. Goal 11 of the *Action Plan to 2019: Towards the Realisation of Schooling 2030* stipulates that the *Improvement of access of children to quality Early Childhood Development (ECD) below Grade 1* remains an important priority. Currently, more than 900,000 Grade 1 learners have received pre-school education. Government seeks to provide every South African learner with an opportunity to receive pre-school education before entering the schooling system in order for them to acquire basic skills such as reading, writing and numeracy.

The Premier of the Limpopo Province, Mr Stanley Mathabatha, the MEC for Health, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, Health Minister, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, Social Development Deputy Minister, Ms Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu, Cipla South Africa CEO, Mr Paul Miller and traditional leaders joined the Deputy President to dedicate their selfless service to the community of Mookgophong.

The Deputy President acknowledged the efforts of the private sector in assisting Government to improve the quality of lives of South African citizens, saying: "This facility will improve the health and wellbeing of children in the Mookgophong community; providing adequate nutrition and health services to address the prevalence of TB in the area. If we take good care of our children from a very young age, they will turn out to be very useful and healthy adults. We all know how Madiba cared about the children, he loved them. We need to take care of our children".

Local celebrities appointed as ambassadors to promote the national reading revolution



An informed nation, based on a reading culture through the power of books, will improve the education system in South Africa. Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, appointed a team of *Read to Lead* literacy ambassadors involving music, sports, academics and TV personalities, to assist the Department of Basic Education (DBE) in promoting a reading revolution in the country.

The roll-out of this initiative will go a long way in ensuring that South Africans understand the importance of reading as part of their daily routine. The ambassadors have been tasked to visit schools in their respective communities to encourage young people to spend more time reading. The collaboration between the DBE and these ambassadors was officially announced at the Nelson Mandela Foundation in Houghton, Johannesburg on 14 July 2017.

The ambassadors described the *Read to Lead Campaign*, which was launched by the DBE in 2015, as a ground breaking initiative that will play a crucial role in improving the level of literacy in South Africa. More than 1,000 ambassadors accepted the offer to collaborate with the DBE on matters relating to literacy. The DBE will utilise this collaboration to mobilise the private sector, civil society and various education stakeholders to also play a crucial role in improving the provision of school library resources across the country.

Several of the ambassadors shared their views about the project. Former Bafana Bafana football legend, Mr Lucas Radebe, said: “I am very excited about being a part of this project. This initiative will surely improve the standard of education in the country. I am enthusiastic to go out there and inspire young people about the importance of reading.” Mr Theo Kgosinkwe from the award winning South African duo, Mafikizolo, explained that, “education should start at home. Parents, in particular, have to make time to read books to their children on a daily basis. I feel delightful that the DBE has launched this initiative, which will have an impact on changing people’s perception about reading”. Ms Tshedi Mholo from the Afro-pop music sensation, Malaika, agreed that parents are the key role players in society, saying: “it will be much easier for our children to develop a love for books if we as parents lead by example”.

Minister Motshekga called upon the private sector to join Government in nurturing a reading culture in public schools. The Minister indicated that the DBE, through its *Read to Lead Campaign*, remains committed to deliver 1,000 mobile libraries annually. To date, more than 5,000 schools have been provided with library resources across the country. Minister Motshekga also thanked AVBOB and Room to Read for working with Government in strengthening library resources. Before releasing these ambassadors into the various communities, Minister Motshekga provided alarming statistics to ensure that they remain committed to the daunting task facing them in their noble quest: “Research studies have revealed that only 14% of South Africans read books whilst only 5% of parents make time to read to their children”. The DBE is confident that, owing to the intervention and inspiration of our newly-appointed ambassadors, our learners will be transformed into knowledge-hungry bibliophiles during the coming months.

Schools Infrastructure Partnership announced on Mandela Day



As the world commemorated International Nelson Mandela Day on 18 July 2017, Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga and AVBOB CEO, Mr Frik Rademan, launched a multi-million rand Schools Infrastructure Partnership at the Joe Solomon Primary School in Bloemfontein, Free State Province. The ground-breaking Partnership includes a R150 million donation towards the renovation, refurbishment and building of schools across the country.

The strategic partnership with AVBOB started in earnest when the DBE made a clarion call to all social partners for increased investment in library services through the launch of the 1000 School Libraries per annum project. AVBOB was amongst the first to partner with the Department. Today, AVBOB is the single largest contributor of fully functional container libraries to primary schools. The value of each container library is worth approximately R500,000 and is equipped with 2,500 books.

Mr Rademan mentioned that the partnership will play a crucial role in ensuring that learners acquire adequate, quality reading material in an environment that is conducive to learning. “A team consisting of AVBOB and DBE officials will work together to renovate and refurbish this school in accordance with government norms and standards. The initiative will further inspire learners, educators and the members of the community to work together to enhance education.

“This day immortalises Mandela’s ‘values and his dedication to the service of humanity’ and acknowledges his contribution ‘to the struggle for democracy internationally and the promotion of a culture of peace throughout the world’. Tata Madiba’s life was dedicated to the building of a united, democratic, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous South Africa. The Nelson Mandela Foundation therefore decided to dedicate this year’s International Mandela Day to fighting poverty,” Minister Motshekga said, and added, “We have been asked to take action against poverty in a way that will bring about sustainable change. This is critical because poverty as we know wears down the human spirit, robs people of their dignity, and limits one’s potential to contribute meaningfully to the life of the nation”.

In her address, Minister Motshekga stated that the partnership with AVBOB will assist Government in improving the conditions in our schools, particularly in rural communities: “It is clear to us that AVBOB takes corporate citizenship very seriously and is committed to socio-economic upliftment and transformation. On behalf of the Government and people of South Africa, we extend our gratitude to the AVBOB family for the role you continuously play in the upliftment of our communities,” Minister Motshekga concluded.

67 minutes of your time to change a life on Mandela Day



The DBE, in partnership with Nestlé SA, will be promoting the Healthy Kids Programme (HKP) as part of the Nelson Mandela International Day celebrations at Makeneng Primary School in Phuthaditjhaba in the Free State Province on 26 July 2017. Makeneng Primary School came third during the 2016/2017 Best School and District Awards in implementing the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) and was awarded cooking equipment and utensils. The celebrations at the school will include the official handover of the prizes and awards whilst learners will be engaging in various activities such as the Young Chefs’ demonstration aimed at promoting healthy lifestyles and key nutrition messages in line with the *Curriculum Assessment Policy Statement*. Learners will take part in mass participation physical exercises, including soccer, touch rugby, netball, hula hoops, basketball, skipping rope, indigenous games and Zumba dancing.

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed Mandela’s birthday, 18 July, as Nelson Mandela International Day in 2009. South Africans and the global community honour South Africa’s late former President and international icon, Nelson Mandela annually during Mandela Month in July, and on the day, in particular. The overarching objective of Nelson Mandela International Day is to inspire individuals to take action to help change the world for the better. The campaign asks that individuals, groups and corporates pledge 67 minutes of their time on 18 July 2017 to give back to their communities. The 67 minutes is symbolic of commemorating the 67 years that Mandela had been a part of the movement for liberation. Various Ministers, government leaders and departments are expected to commemorate Mandela Day activities in different parts of the country during the month of July.

Paying tribute to iNkosi Albert Luthuli



Deputy Minister Enver Surty will be representing the Department at the 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the passing of iNkosi Albert Luthuli which will be taking place on Friday, 21 July 2017, at Groutville Market Grounds in the iLembe District Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal Province. iNkosi Albert Luthuli was one of the founding fathers of the African National Congress (ANC), which he served as President-General from 1952 until his death in 1967. He was also the first African Leader to be awarded a Nobel Peace Prize in 1960.

The annual National iNkosi Albert Luthuli Oral History Competition, named after iNkosi Albert Luthuli, also a dedicated educator, is scheduled to take place from 30 September to 02 October 2016 in Pretoria where learners and educators will be expected to present their oral history projects during parallel sessions. The iNkosi Albert Luthuli Oral History Programme started as part of the Department's efforts to boost History as a subject of choice for learners. The Programme was established in 2005 in partnership with South African History Online (SAHO) and aims to rekindle a love for History as a subject of choice in schools.

The Programme is open to Grade 8 to 11 learners who have an interest in the study of History and Social Sciences and it covers schools across all nine provinces. The Programme further aims at improving teaching practice with particular reference to History; and educators are therefore also participating in the Programme by preparing portfolios on how they introduced oral history in the classroom and how they went about assisting learners in preparing for their oral history projects. Learners and educators are required to provide a portfolio of evidence and prepare oral presentations to develop their critical thinking and research skills; learners will also have to prepare a research paper on a required topic. All participating learners and educators will receive a certificate of participation and the overall winners, from both the learner and educator categories, will receive winner's certificates and prizes.

The South African Council for Educators (SACE) hosts annual Fun Walk in Pretoria



The South African Council for Educators (SACE) will be hosting their annual Fun Walks across various provinces from 19 August to 21 October 2017. Last year, SACE hosted its annual 8km Fun Walk at Fountains Valley in Pretoria on 15 October 2016. The Fun Walk took place in celebration of all South African teachers and in support of the annual commemoration of Teachers' Month and the Teacher Appreciation and Support Programme (TASP). The Fun Walk attracted a large number of educators from the Gauteng Province, as well as the surrounding provinces. The theme for 2017 is: "The Year of the Teacher". The Fun Walk is all about promoting a healthy lifestyle for educators.

Deputy Minister of Basic Education, Mr Enver Surty and Prof Crain Soudien, the Chief Executive Officer of the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), officially released the *The Health of Educators in Public Schools in South Africa* at the 8th SA AIDS Conference at the Durban International Convention Centre on 14 June 2017. Investing in the health and wellness of educators is necessary to improve the quality of basic education in the country. Furthermore, unless they are healthy and well supported, the quality of teaching in classrooms will be compromised.

The study also looked at the presence of non-communicable diseases in educators. High blood pressure, stomach ulcers, diabetes and asthma were the most common diseases. One in five educators reported having hypertension, which is associated with strokes and heart disease amongst others. For the basic education sector, the Report was released at the right time, along with the launch of the *DBE National Policy on HIV, STIs and TB* that also highlights the importance of addressing employee health and wellness programmes (EHWP). Educators are influential leaders and role-models in their communities. The National and Provincial Education Departments (PEDs), teacher unions, other government departments, development partners, researchers and academics, as well as civil society must all work together to improve the wellbeing of our educators.

Visit www.sace.org.za for additional information on the SACE Fun Walk and to download the entry form.

Regional Round-up



GAUTENG PROVINCE
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Gauteng Province

Currently, more than 300,000 girl learners in the Gauteng Province are receiving dignity packs to keep them in schools. The Department of Social Development, in collaboration with the Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) and the Departments of Health, Arts and Culture, Recreation and Human Settlements, will provide more than one million dignity packs to girl learners in the Province by 2019. The announcement was made on 13 July 2017 during the National Consultative Indaba on Sanitary Dignity for Indigent Girls and Women held at the Ditsong Cultural Museum in Pretoria. The Indaba, which was organised by the Department of Women, is part of an effort to provide sanitary pads to school girls and poor unemployed young women. During the 2017/18 financial year, 540,000 dignity packs will be provided, prioritising orphaned and vulnerable girl children within disadvantaged schools across the 15 education districts in Gauteng. The packs contain sanitary towels, soap, toothpaste, body lotion, roll-on deodorant and a roll of toilet paper.

Upcoming Events

- 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
- 07 – 08 August 2017: A Mobile Learning Expert Panel on Designing an Effective Large-scale Mobile Learning Initiative for public schools will be taking place at the Protea Hotel, Menlyn in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 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
- 30 September – 02 October 2017: The iNkosi Albert Luthuli Oral History Competition to take place in Pretoria, Gauteng 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.

