



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



NEWSLETTER

2017 Monetary Policy Committee Schools Challenge underway



The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) Schools Challenge will provide learners with the opportunity to assume the role of the Governor of the SA Reserve Bank (SARB) and his Deputy Governors for a few months. These learners will be making important decisions based on data they receive for analysis to prepare a Monetary Policy Statement in the same way as Governor, Mr Lesetja Kganyago and his MPC team does.

Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, together with the Governor of the South African Reserve Bank, Mr Lesetja Kganyago, launched the MPC Schools Challenge at the Reserve Bank (SARB) in Pretoria on 21 July 2017. Grade 12 Economics subject learners, who aspire to become future economists, have been identified to compete in the MPC Schools Challenge to prove that South Africa's economy will be in safe hands in the near future. Each participating school constitutes a team of four learners who model themselves on the MPC. The team presents its case to a panel of SARB economists while representatives of the DBE will be moderating the overall outcome of the Challenge.

The MPC Schools Challenge was piloted in 2012 by the Reserve Bank, in conjunction with the Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) to improve financial and economic literacy among young people. Since then, the Challenge has been expanded to over seven provinces (excluding KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape), involving 450 schools and 1,240 learners; and will be rolled out to all nine provinces by 2018.

The Challenge is currently underway in the participating provinces and the results will be announced at the SARB on 04 August 2017. The Challenge further seeks to offer learners an opportunity to expand their understanding of Monetary Policy whilst stimulating an interest in a career in Economics. It also allows candidates to better understand the economy through raising awareness and understanding of the role and responsibilities of the SARB. These learners will be expected to put some of their economic theory into practice.

In her address, Minister Motshekga explained that the Challenge will help to improve broad economic literacy in the country: "What better way to address the challenges we face as a country than to inspire our youth to take up the mantle, and be budding economists. I would like to thank the Reserve Bank for such an innovative and exciting initiative. Economic literacy provides learners with the tools for understanding their economic world, and how to interpret events that will either directly or indirectly affect them. We therefore want our young people to become engaged in these conversations around the economy from an educated perspective, and not take up debates based on rumours about the economy".

The requirement of the MPC Schools Challenge stipulates that all learners participating must take a combination of Mathematics and Economics in Grade 12. Minister Motshekga hailed the SARB for partnering with the DBE in this initiative as it will go a long way in promoting learner performance in Mathematics. Mathematics in its various forms remains a compulsory subject in the sector. From Grade 10, learners have an option of taking one of the following three forms of Mathematics: Pure Mathematics, Mathematical Literacy, designed for learners who do not intend pursuing Post-schooling careers that will require Mathematics as part of the Post-schooling admission requirements; and Technical Mathematics, for learners who intend pursuing technology-related careers.

Mr Kganyago indicated that decisions whether to cut, increase or to keep interest rates unchanged are of enormous importance to the economy as these decisions affect most people either directly or indirectly: “This often raises the question: how do central banks make these decisions, and specifically, what factors do they take into account in making these decisions. Monetary Policy decisions at the SARB are made by the MPC. The MPC currently comprises of six members: the Governor, the three Deputy Governors and two SARB officials.

DBE grooms educators to improve effective implementation of ICT in public schools



A hundred and fifty five (155) ICT educators who enrolled for the university accredited blended Short Learning Programme (SLP), *Managing and Leading Education with Digital Technologies* at the University of Johannesburg (UJ) have finally graduated.

The DBE, in partnership with UJ, Microsoft, Vodacom and UNICEF, organised a graduation ceremony at Milpark Garden Court Hotel in Johannesburg on 26 July 2017, to present certificates to the successful candidates. In first place as overall winner and top achiever, from the Mpumalanga Province, for best assignment in Cultural Historical Activity Theory (CHAT) was Mr Deon Van Vuuren. The second overall winner and top achiever, from the Eastern Cape Province, for best assignment in Digital Classroom was Ms Desiree Felkers. The third overall winner and top achiever, from the Free State Province, for the best assignment in Technology Pedagogical Content Knowledge (TPACK) focus on Technologies was Mr Randall Pienaar. The top three candidates received laptops from Microsoft for their excellent achievements. A further 20 candidates who scored high marks in the overall course, received iPads from Vodacom.

The course was presented at UJ's Auckland Park Campus from 11 to 14 July 2016, and continued as an online virtual course from 15 July 2016 to 31 May 2017. Through this course, the DBE is confident that all public schools will be in a position to deliver quality learning and teaching through Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) integration.

All provinces participated in the Programme and each held provincial graduation ceremonies to celebrate the achievements of all the officials and educators who successfully completed the course. Each educator who enrolled for this SLP completed a 30 credits programme that articulates towards a post-graduate Diploma in Higher Education, an NQF-level 8 that's on par with an Honours Degree, which confirms that the candidates have successfully completed a quarter of the 120 credits programme.

In her address, Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, said: “The course will play a crucial role in improving the effective digital education in the country, adding that, the design and implementation of this course, the wonderful community spirit that accompanied it and the dedication of all of the graduates, are consistent with the policies and strategies of the DBE as spelled out in the *Action Plan to 2019: Towards the Realisation of Schooling 2030* and in the country's vision as expressed in the *National Development Plan (NDP)*. It also pleases me to learn that many of you have contributed through this course, to the development of the *Professional Development Framework for Digital Learning* which the DBE will be adopting formally soon, and which aligns with the goals of the *e-Education White Paper* and the *Integrated Strategic Planning Framework for Teacher Education and Development*. This Framework will offer a road map to all education officials, teachers and lecturers at post schooling institutions, including universities to develop individualised professional development pathways supported by digital technologies”.

iNkosi Albert Luthuli's legacy and the right to education celebrated



Historic icon, iNkosi Albert Luthuli, dedicated his entire life to fighting for the rights of all South Africans; and contributed to the drafting of the *Freedom Charter*, which informed the spirit of the *Constitution* of the Republic of South Africa.

On 21 July 2017, the President of the Republic of South Africa, Mr Jacob Zuma, accompanied by Basic Education Deputy Minister, Mr Enver Surty, Department of Arts and Culture Minister, Mr Nathi Mthethwa and other senior government officials, attended the 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the passing of iNkosi Albert Luthuli at Groutville Market Grounds in the iLembe District Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal Province. More than 200 learners from local schools were also invited to take part in the celebration.

iNkosi Luthuli was born near Bulawayo in the then Rhodesia (now known as Zimbabwe) in 1898. He returned to his family's home at the Groutville Mission Station in 1908. After completing a teaching course at Edendale near Pietermaritzburg, Luthuli took up the running of a small primary school in the Natal Midlands. During 1920, Luthuli studied further, and subsequently took up a teaching post at Adams College. In 1960 Luthuli was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. 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.

Addressing the Groutville community, President Zuma honoured iNkosi Albert Luthuli for his courage in the liberation of South Africa: "Chief Luthuli is a symbol of peace and unity and in his memory, we must recommit to the South Africa he envisaged. As we mark 23 years of democracy, we ask ourselves what Chief Luthuli would say if he were with us today. I have no doubt that while he would be disheartened by the persistent poverty, inequality and unemployment; he would equally be encouraged by the level of progress our democratic government has made since the dawn of democracy in 1994. He would be pleased that the country has almost reached the universal primary education threshold, ahead of many other developing nations".

Currently more than 900,000 children have received pre-school education in this country. Approximately 99% of South African children have access to quality education in public schools. Government continues to feed approximately 10 million learners with a balanced meal on a daily basis. The DBE is also hard at work to expand Information Communication and Technology (ICT) connectivity in schools across the country. Currently, the number of schools with ICT connectivity has expanded to approximately 24,000. The DBE, through its *Read to Lead Campaign* has provided library resources to 5,000 schools across the country. Furthermore, 60 million workbooks are also distributed to all nine provinces annually.

Deputy Minister Surty indicated that Luthuli should be saluted for his determination and dedication to societal justice, adding that, "our children are now enjoying the rights to education because of Luthuli's selfless contribution to the liberation of South Africa. I have to acknowledge the Department of Arts and Culture for the strong partnership in the commemoration of this historic icon. We need to work hard as a society to ensure that Luthuli's values live forever". Deputy Minister Surty also made reference to the iNkosi Albert Luthuli Oral History Programme: "The Department is committed to making History a compulsory subject within the education sector. This initiative will assist our children to understand the history of South Africa and that of the continent much better," concluded Deputy Minister Surty. 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.

Education Conversations centred around the Schooling 2030 Vision



The DBE, together with the Kagiso Trust and the University of Johannesburg (UJ), hosted the “Education Conversations” under the banner “Our Vision for South African Education” on 25 July 2017 at the UJ Soweto Campus. The Conversations were aimed at encouraging the country to create space for debates and discussions through which diverse voices can be heard focusing on “what works” and how to collectively advance the agenda for an improved and performing public education system.

In addition, the principles of the Education Conversations partnership included: encouraging stakeholders in education to move away from the pathology of focusing on what is not right with the country’s education system and rather focus on creating solutions to challenges faced by the system; encouraging stakeholders in education to play a role in transforming South Africa’s education; holding all stakeholders in education accountable and responsible for the performance of South Africa’s public education system; and anchoring the participation of the DBE in these conversations.

The key objectives of the Conversations were to unpack and engage on the DBE’s *Schooling 2030 Vision* for education. Insights and theories were invited from non-profit organisations, service providers and parents, as well as role players from the education sector such as the National and Provincial Departments of Education, educators, members of School Governing Bodies (SGBs), academia and unions. A large number of UJ education students also submitted their visions for the panel discussion led by Basic Education Deputy Minister, Mr Enver Surty, Mr Abram Kgari, Founder and Executive Director of Oratile Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centre and Mr Koketso Nthimbane, Education Honours Student at the University of Johannesburg.

Deputy Surty mentioned in his keynote address, that the *Action Plan to 2019: Towards the Realisation of Schooling 2030* contains 27 goals covering matters relating to teachers, class sizes, classroom practices, educational materials, school management and governance. Goals 1 to 13 deal with specific outcomes of the schooling system relating to enrolment and attainment, and outcomes relating to what learners should learn. Goals 14 to 27 deal with how to achieve the 13 output goals. The Deputy Minister explained that his vision for 2030 is “to ensure that there is continuous improvement within the education sector”.

“Amongst these 27 goals, there are five priority goals: Improving the access of children to quality Early Childhood Development below Grade 1; Improving the professionalism, teaching skills, subject knowledge and computer literacy of teachers throughout their entire careers; Ensuring that every learner has access to the minimum set of textbooks and workbooks required according to national policy; Ensuring that the basic annual management processes take place across all schools in the country in a way that contributes towards a functional school environment; and Improving the frequency and quality of the monitoring and support services provided to schools by district offices, partly through better use of e-education”.

In conclusion, all the stakeholders involved were pleased with the outcomes of the Conversations and were satisfied with the goals outlined by the DBE with regards to the education system. In response, the Department encouraged discourse outside the forum to ensure that the challenges that are faced in the education system are adequately addressed.

Makeneng Primary School hosts the 2016/2017 National School Nutrition Best Schools and District Awards



The DBE honours schools that make a sustained contribution towards the effective implementation of the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) for their sterling work in ensuring that learners attend classes with full tummies. Steenberg's Cove Primary School in the Western Cape Province came out tops in the 2016/2017 National School Nutrition Best Schools and District Awards, "taking home" R450,000 to build a fully functional kitchen at the school. In second place was Bophelong Special School from the North West Province, followed by Makeneng Primary School from Phuthaditjhaba, Free State Province, in third place. The second and third place winners received cooking equipment and utensils (gas stoves, pots, food bins and trollies), procured by the DBE. The top three winners were selected from 21,000 schools across the country.

The NSNP Co-ordinator from the DBE, Ms Mapula Mohube and the Thabo Mofutsanyana District Director, Ms Lindiwe Mabaso, officially handed over the prize to Makeneng Primary School as part of the Mandela Day celebrations on 26 July 2017.

DBE officials from the NSNP Directorate and officials from the Free State Provincial Education Department (PED) gave 67 minutes of their selfless service feeding hundreds of Makeneng learners in honour of Madiba's legacy.

The NSNP has grown in leaps and bounds to ensure that more than 10 million learners from across all nine provinces are guaranteed a balanced meal on a daily basis. The NSNP was implemented in no-fee schools (quintile 1-3) to ensure that learners have an opportunity to acquire the quality education that they deserve.

The DBE, in partnership with Nestlé South Africa, used Mandela Day to engage Makeneng Primary School learners in the Healthy Kids Programme aimed at promoting healthy lifestyles and providing nutritional education to learners. More than 900 learners, including educators, participated in physical activities such as soccer, touch rugby, netball, hula hoops, basketball, skipping rope, indigenous games and Zumba dance. The DBE and Nestlé SA also held information sharing sessions and dialogues with educators, learners, volunteer food handlers and school vendors to promote nutritional values. Nestlé SA also brought their professional chefs who gave a demonstration to learners on how to prepare healthy meals.

The school principal from Makeneng Primary School, Ms Moahloli Masechaba, said that, "Government should sustain the NSNP because it promotes school attendance. This Programme assists us as educators to manage teaching time effectively. This has been a wonderful and exciting day; the new equipment will assist the food handlers to work effectively. We need to support the Programme to promote healthy lifestyles".

District Director, Ms Mabaso added: "Whilst we strive for improving the implementation of NSNP in our schools, it is critical to also improve quality teaching and learning. I applaud Government for having established this Programme because it assists our learners to perform optimally".



Y-CAP is empowering and motivating learners as agents of change



The Youth Citizens Action Programme (Y-CAP) is a youth development programme that empowers, skills and motivates new generations of active citizens in Grades 6 – 7 and Grades 9 – 10. The DBE has been collaborating with the Empowervate Trust and its sponsors on Y-CAP for the past eight years.

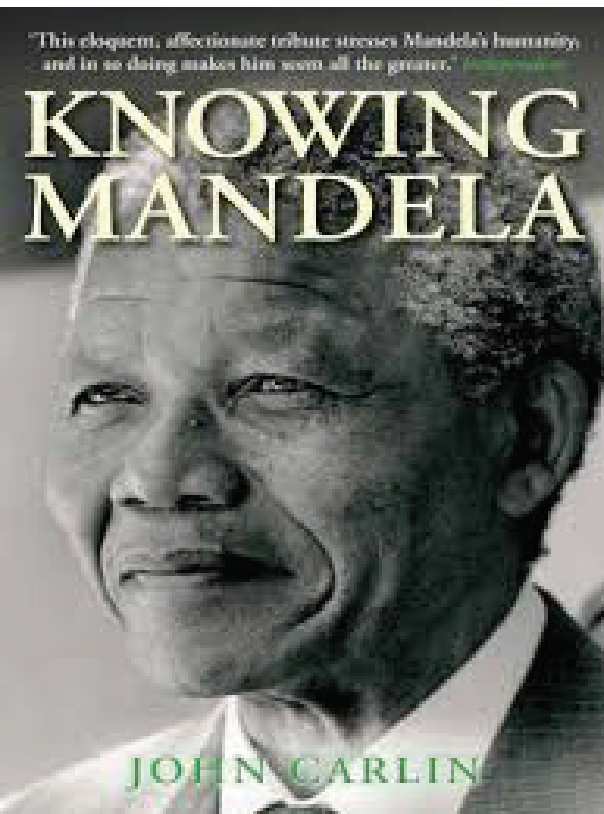
Schools in all provinces are provided with Y-CAP toolkits from Empowervate that show them how to identify challenges in their schools and communities to become agents of change. They then follow the step-by-step guide to find creative and innovative solutions that address social, environmental and academic challenges in their schools and communities. Participating in the Y-CAP Programme assists in creating a team of proactive learners and role models.

This year, a record 600 schools registered to participate in Y-CAP, comprising more than 5,000 primary and secondary school learners from all nine provinces. During Youth Month and Mandela Month, district events, followed by provincial events, took place throughout the country to identify the most impactful projects from each category and province. The 18 provincial winning teams from the 9 primary and 9 secondary school categories will present their projects at the annual Y-CAP National Championships on Saturday 29 July 2017, at the Garden Court Hotel, South Beach, Durban, in the KwaZulu-Natal Province.

This year, the keynote speaker will be founder and CEO of Hirsch's Homestore, Margaret Hirsch. There will also be other motivational speakers, coaching workshops and the screening of the Heartline's values-based film "Beyond the River". The programme's major sponsors through the Empowervate Trust are the Deutsche Bank South Africa Foundation, DSV Mounties and Airports Company South Africa (ACSA), with Airlink and Europcar providing donations.

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed South Africa's late former President, Nelson Mandela's birthday on 18 July as Nelson Mandela International Day in 2009. South Africans and the global community honour this international icon annually during Mandela Month in July, and on the day, in particular. The Information Resource Centre (IRC) therefore focuses on the following books on Tata Madiba:

Knowing Mandela



Author: Carlin, J

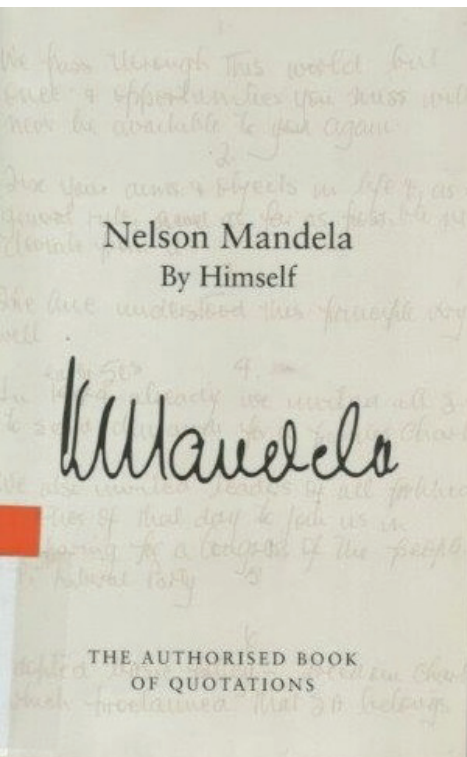
Dewey number: 920 MAN

After serving twenty-seven years of a lifetime sentence for conspiring to overthrow South Africa's Apartheid Government, Nelson Mandela emerged to become both the catalyst and the symbol of Post-Apartheid South Africa. He served as the country's first black president and has since been internationally acclaimed as a powerful and vigilant humanitarian.

John Carlin began covering South African politics while serving as the London Independent's Bureau Chief in South Africa in 1989, and formed a relationship with Nelson Mandela in the decades since. Mandela has called Carlin's journalism "courageous" and "absolutely inspiring". Now, Carlin reflects back on the man he has studied and admired for much of his career. The book begins with Mandela's release from prison in 1990, and ends with the last time Carlin saw Mandela face-to-face in the early 2000s.

Spanning decades, and chronicling both personal and national memories, Carlin's tribute to Mandela is a fitting retrospective on a life well lived and its enduring legacy.

Nelson Mandela by Himself: The Authorised Book of Quotations



Author: Hatang, S

Dewey number: 920 MAN

The first wholly accurate and authorised record of Nelson Mandela's most inspiring and historically important quotations. *Nelson Mandela By Himself* is the definitive book of quotations from one of the great leaders of our time. This collection, gathered from privileged authorised access to Mandela's vast personal archive of private papers, speeches, correspondence and audio recordings, features more than 2,000 quotations spanning over 60 years, many previously unpublished.

Mandela's inspirational quotations are organised into over 300 categories for easy reference, including such aspects as what defines greatness in "Character", "Courage" and "Optimism", while we learn from the great man the essence of democracy, freedom and struggle in the categories "Democracy", "History", "Racism", "Reconciliation" and "Unity".

Nelson Mandela By Himself is the first, and only, authorised and authenticated collection of quotations by one of the world's most admired individuals.

Regional Round-up



The Eastern Cape Provincial Education Department (PED) announced that approximately 697 small schools in the Eastern Cape Province will be closed for pupils to be moved to bigger and better functioning schools by the end of the year as part of the Department's rationalisation programme to improve the quality of education. During 2012 the Eastern Cape PED announced its intention to close 2077 schools with very low enrolment figures or to merge them with larger schools for more effective schooling. Teachers, principals and support staff were assured that they will not lose their jobs during the process. A total of 1902 schools are currently in the process of being rationalised. The schools listed for closure are located in approximately 15 Districts.

Upcoming Events

- 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.