



**basic education**

Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**THUTO**



## NEWSLETTER

# Minister Motshekga's message of condolence for the Late Timothy Khoza, MP



It is with immense sadness that I have to share news of the tragic passing of Basic Education Parliamentary Portfolio Committee Member, Mr Timothy Khoza.

I was informed of the tragic accident on Wednesday morning. A group of MP's from the Basic Education Portfolio Committee were traveling together to conduct school oversight visits in the Paarl area near Cape Town on Wednesday morning, and on route they were involved in a crash where their vehicle overturned. Mr Khoza sadly died on the scene of the accident.

Portfolio Committee Chair, Ms Nomalungelo Gina, DA MP, Mr Ian Ollis and UDM MP, Ms Cynthia Maleke were also injured in the accident.

I would like to send my heartfelt condolences to the Khoza family during this painful time as well as the entire Portfolio Committee who are mourning the loss of a beloved colleague and Comrade.

We had a very good working relationship with Mr Khoza, he had an unwavering passion for the education of our country's young people. This is evident by the fact that he died in the line of duty serving his country in public office. His enthusiastic contributions when engaging with the Department on matters affecting our nation's learners will be sorely missed.

This is a tragic loss for us all, but none more so than for his family. I personally can't believe he is gone, he was such a lovely Comrade who was taken from us too soon.

The Department will communicate funeral arrangements as soon as they are made available.

Thank you.

## Professional standards for teachers





The National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT) in conjunction with the Centre for Development and Enterprise (CDE) hosted a dialogue on the report by the CDE on the development of Professional Standards for teachers.

The Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga attended the dialogue and welcomed the report and many of its findings. However, she was forced to defend teachers at the meeting, after the report's author Ann Bernstein made sweeping negative statements in her introduction of the report about teachers and SADTU in particular.

The Minister pointed out that the education sector was on an upward trajectory as shown by a number of indicators including the TIMSS and SACMEQ results. She said this would not be possible if it were not for the hard work and dedication of teachers in schools.

Much of the focus from the discussions centred around the need for the implementation of standards to begin at the initial teacher training level, with a standardised approach at level of Universities.

Accountability and the role of SACE were also identified as important factors in developing standards for teachers.

“The development of professional standards must be understood within a broader context of the accelerated implementation of the Integrated Strategic Planning Framework on Teacher Education and Development in South Africa. This professionalisation path is key in ensuring the implementation of the professional standards from entry into the teaching profession, initial teacher education phase, induction of newly qualified teachers and continuing professional development,” said Minister Motshekga.

Another point of emphasis was the ongoing professional development of teachers, this is something labour unions, also present in the meeting agreed upon.

In a media interview after the dialogue, the Minister told journalists that unions play an important role in the continuous development of teachers.

“South African Democratic Teachers Union, for instance, has its own teacher development centre. SAOU have some of the best programmes. All of them, National Teachers Union have got their own programmes. So there's lots of work already happening,” she said.

The report will be widely consulted on and may be used to inform developments in the sector moving forward towards the professionalisation of the teaching profession.

## Designing an effective large-scale mobile learning initiative for public schools



The DBE and UNICEF will be hosting an expert panel on mobile learning (M-learning) with international experts at the Protea Hotel Fire and Ice, Menlyn, from 07 to 08 August 2017. The purpose of the expert panel workshop is to share key lessons and experiences from local and global M-learning initiatives on design and implementation principles when conceptualising and implementing an effective, efficient and sustainable initiative for South African public schools.

Discussion topics during these sessions include M-Learning innovation in South Africa; Experiences in M-Health; Approaches to learning and pedagogy; and M-learning technical design for scale and replicability, to name but a few. Mr Malik Hussain, Founder and CEO of Digital Learning 360 from Harvard University, United States of America (US) and Prof John Traxler, a Research Professor for Digital Learning at the Institute of Education from

the University of Wolverhampton, United Kingdom (UK), will lead discussions on international experiences in M-learning with a focus on global trends and contexts for developing countries.

Key features of successful M-Learning for learners from disadvantaged communities will also be under discussion in an attempt to make Information Communication and Technology (ICT) and online platforms more accessible to learners in remote and rural areas.



# The DBE celebrates Women's Month



This year marks the 61<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Women's March to the Union Buildings on 09 August 1956. On that day approximately 20,000 women of all races, class and religious persuasions protested against the extension of Pass Laws. The march was a turning point in the role of women in the struggle for freedom.

The 2017 National Women's Day celebrations will pay tribute to women and their role in the liberation struggle. This year's celebration coincides with the centenary of struggle icon OR Tambo. OR Tambo was a strong advocate for gender equality. During the Conference of the Women in Luanda in 1981, Tambo said: "The mobilisation of women is the task, not only of women alone, or of men alone, but of all of us, men and women alike, comrades in struggle. The mobilisation of the people into active resistance and struggle for liberation demands the energies of women no less than of men." He added: "A system based on the exploitation of man-by-man can in no way avoid the exploitation of women by the male members of society. There is therefore no way in which women in general can liberate themselves without fighting to the end the exploitation of man-by-man, both as a concept and as a social system".

The 2017 commemoration also takes place against a backdrop of heinous crimes against women and children and the call is for collaboration in a new struggle for respect, gender equity and an end to gender-based violence.

The Department will be celebrating Women's Month on 25 August 2017, in collaboration with Constitution Hill. Constitution Hill is a living museum that tells the story of South Africa's journey to democracy. The site is a former prison and military fort that bears testament to South Africa's turbulent past and, today, is home to the country's Constitutional Court, which endorses the rights of all citizens. Nelson Mandela, Mahatma Gandhi, Joe Slovo, Albertina Sisulu, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela and Fatima Meer all served time at Constitution Hill. Various learners who occupy leadership positions in schools will be invited to join the Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga, in discussions to promote gender issues, and to advance the economic participation of women in the sector. Struggle stalwarts, Ms Charlotte Maxeke and Mrs Adelaide Tambo, will also be honoured for their contribution to the liberation struggle.

South Africa will commemorate National Women's Day on 9 August 2017 at Galeshewe, Kimberley in the Northern Cape Province under the theme: *"The Year of OR Tambo: Women United in Moving South Africa Forward"*. The national celebrations will include the *National Dialogues on Violence against Women* to help combat the continued scourge of violent attacks and abuse against women. The Dialogues are a platform for deepening democracy whilst ensuring safer and crime-free communities, especially for women and children.

## Regional Round-up

## North West Province

The North West Education and Sport Development MEC, Mr Sello Lehari, kick-started the *Re Bona Ka Matlho* Campaign on 27 July 2017 at Kopela Village. The purpose of the Campaign is to monitor the progress of all construction work taking place across the province in respect of the building of schools and sport facilities. The Campaign will assist the Department to inspect the various building sites to avoid sub-standard work by contractors. The Campaign commenced at Kopela Village where three different contractors are currently constructing three schools: Ramokonyane and Noto Secondary Schools, as well as Kelebogile Primary School which should all be completed by January 2018. The Campaign will monitor, and hold accountable, those contractors who are not working according to their contracts as they should stay on site for the agreed period of time to complete the task at hand within the agreed time, and as efficiently as possible.

## Upcoming Events

- 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 Fire and Ice, Menlyn in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 09 August 2017: National Women's Day
- 16 and 17 August 2017: Release of the Early Grade Study (North West Study Findings) to take place at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 18 August 2017: Release of the SACMEQ IV and *The Skills for a Changing World* Reports during a Roundtable to be held at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 19 August – 22 September 2017: The hosting of the provincial rounds of the National Schools Moot Court Competition
- 25 August 2017: DBE's Women's Day event to be hosted in Gauteng Province
- 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.