



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



NEWSLETTER

Minister Motshekga addresses SAOU Principals Symposium



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, attended the South Africa Teachers' Union (SAOU) 22nd National Principals Symposium in Port Elizabeth on Tuesday, 29 August 2017. The four day symposium covered an array of issues focused on the professional development of principals and finding innovative ways to tackle the 21st century challenges faced by the sector.

Minister Motshekga talked about the importance of competent and effective school leadership needed to address the often complex issues we find in our schools.

"Education scholars have long concluded that there is a causal link between school leadership and improved learners' achievement. It is considered that a capable school principal with zest for knowledge and heightened leadership ability has a direct effect on the improved performance of learners," said Minister Motshekga.

The Minister spoke about the new demands placed on school management and leadership brought about by new demands in the ever changing education environment and more so in the context of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. "The Fourth Industrial Revolution is evolving at an exponential rather than a linear pace. Moreover, it is disrupting almost every industry. The breadth and depth of these changes herald the transformation of entire systems of production, management, and governance. Hence, the demands on school management must evolve fast and swift. We need principals with a long term vision to inculcate within the school communities, issues of innovation and integration of the Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) for both learning and teaching."

Minister Motshekga continued: "The Fourth Industrial Revolution brings with it the technological revolution that will fundamentally alter the way we live, work, and relate to one another. In its scale, scope, and complexity, the transformation will be unlike anything humankind has experienced before. We do not yet know just how it will unfold, but one thing is clear: the response to it must be integrated and comprehensive, involving all stakeholders of the global polity, from the public and private sectors to academia and civil society."

Minister Motshekga took the opportunity to acknowledge that it is not easy to be a principal in the South African context where external factors weigh heavily upon their shoulders. "We have the urban-rural divide. We are culturally, socially and politically diverse. These challenges demand of the principal to be dynamic and responsive to culturally and economically defined contexts. Compounding the above challenges is that our schools cater for a variety of learners: teen parents, learners from child-headed households, orphans and children from affluent homes. As a result learners have varying education levels, health needs, wellness status (mental, physical abilities), and socio-economic status, religious and cultural beliefs. School communities reflect this diversity, both within and between schools. We therefore need principals with the ability to interpret the demands of their jobs and determine how they will perform their function within this context of national development while fostering social cohesion and adherence to academic standards," said the Minister.

SAOU President, Dr Louis Swanepoel, thanked the Minister for her attendance. He said the SAOU enjoys a good relationship with the Minister and expressed the appreciation of the union for her on-going support.

Basic Education Director-General's oversight visit programme continues in the Eastern Cape, Western Cape and Gauteng Provinces

Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, Director-General for Basic Education, is currently visiting various provinces on the second round of provincial engagements.

The provincial engagement programme was introduced to the education system to strengthen the collaboration and support between the Department of Basic Education and the Provincial Education Departments as the system works collectively towards the delivery of quality education in South Africa. The engagement is also used to monitor the progress made by provinces in terms of improving effective curriculum coverage in schools across the country and to discuss the state of readiness for the 2017 National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examinations, whilst exploring better mechanisms for improving quality learning and teaching in schools.

As at 28 August 2017, five provinces have been visited. In this week's *Thuto* we feature Mr Mveli's engagements with the Eastern Cape, Western Cape and Gauteng provinces where more than 800 officials attended.

Click on the below link for the feature on the Director-General's provincial engagements:

<https://www.education.gov.za/Home/ProvincialEngagementswithDistrictofficialsandschoolprincipals.aspx>

Eastern Cape Province



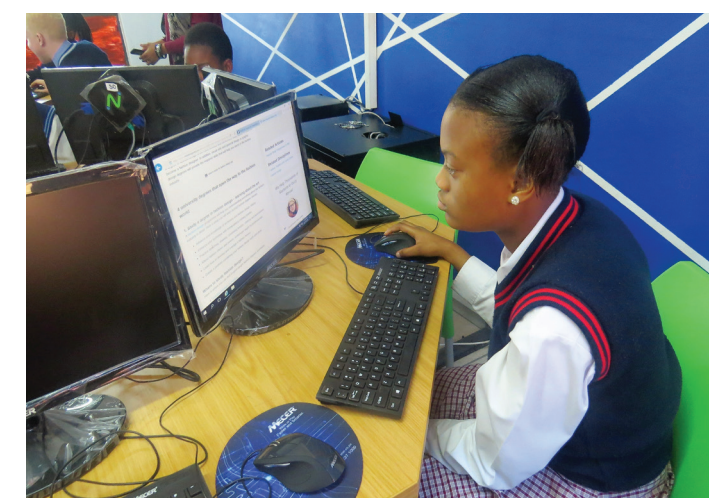
Western Cape Province



Gauteng Province



Professional Development Framework for Digital Learning - building educator competencies to facilitate digital learning



It is necessary for teacher professional development to specifically address how digital tools and resources can support teaching and enhance learning in different subjects within the wide range of socio-economic contexts that teachers encounter in South Africa. The aim of teacher professional development for digital learning is for teachers to grow from a pedagogical foundation while integrating digital tools and resources in teaching and learning. This will help them to gain an understanding of how digital tools and resources will be used to meet specific outcomes within subjects of the curriculum to improve learners' attainment.

Goal 16 of the DBE *Action Plan to 2019: Towards the Realisation of Schooling 2030* commits the Department and its partners, to improve the professionalism, teaching skills, subject knowledge and computer literacy of teachers throughout their careers. Consistent with the DBE's *Action Plan*, the *Integrated Strategic Planning Framework for Teacher Education and Development* (ISPFTED) commits the DBE to invest in digital technologies to support the delivery of the strategy. The ISPFTED makes reference to the need for specific teacher knowledge and practice standards for each subject area or area of teacher expertise and the establishment of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to strengthen teacher professionalism.

The main aim of the Framework is to define professional development for digital learning in an education system that seeks to improve access, quality, equity, redress and efficiency. Achieving this aim will ensure that teachers have a clear plan for their individual needs for professional development in digital learning using digital tools and content resources.

The *White Paper on e-Education* (2004) outlined the elements of transformed learning and teaching through Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). It was supported by the publication of *Guidelines for Teacher Training and Professional Development in ICT* (2007), which provided guidelines for teacher professional development in ICT and educator competencies within a developmental framework. The purpose of the Framework is to provide guidelines for the professional development of educator digital learning competencies for teacher trainers, school leaders and teachers, e-learning specialists and curriculum subject specialists.

Digital learning, which encompasses e-learning and mobile learning, describes learning that uses appropriate digital tools and resources to strengthen a teacher's teaching and a learner's learning experience resulting in more effective achievement of curriculum learning objectives. This Framework views digital learning as a more modern expression of "ICT integration", which is itself a broader concept than "IT skills". Key to achieving the goals of this Framework are the educator competencies in planning and facilitating digital learning, which will form the basis of a teacher's needs analysis and planning for professional development in digital learning. Teachers seeking to more effectively achieve the curriculum aims and objectives will seek competence in digital learning in three key areas: Professional Growth, Curriculum Focus and Leadership.

The Framework was approved by the Heads of Education Departments Committee (HEDCOM) on 11 August 2017 and will be presented to the Council of Education Ministers (CEM) for approval on 14 September 2017. Once the Framework is approved by CEM, provincial roadshows will be scheduled for October 2017. The purpose of the roadshows will be for key provincial role players to engage more deeply with the Framework and its implementation. The way forward, and the DBE support for each province in planning and implementation of professional development for digital learning will be discussed. The DBE will also engage in a similar way with education faculty members at Higher Education Institutions (HEI) in each province as the Department has a number of resources ready which can be used to build on existing capacity in the provinces and HEIs.

Integrated Care and Support Programme activation



The Health Promotion Directorate, with the support of the Social Mobilisation and Support Branch, will be providing an Integrated Care and Support Programme activation in ten schools in the Pixley Ka Seme District, Northern Cape Province, during the month of September 2017. The recently adopted *Care and Support for Teaching and Learning (CSTL) Framework* supports the *National Policy on HIV, STIs and TB* and the HIV and AIDS Life Skills Education Programme with the aim to raise awareness on the barriers that negatively affect access, retention and performance of learners in schools; Provide opportunities for vulnerable learners to have access to a range of public health and poverty reduction interventions; Conduct advocacy on the *National Policy on HIV, STIs and TB*; and Provide learners with access to comprehensive health services, including sexual reproductive health services. Early intervention in addressing health barriers to learning will enhance the development of children, resulting in educational gains.

An assessment of the vulnerable children in these ten schools is currently being done and this assessment will include the identification of those learners who do not have school uniforms and identity documents. The Programme, which will commence on 04 September 2017, will include parent dialogues on the *National Policy on HIV, STIs and TB* and Educators' support in the form of health screening, debt counselling, psychosocial support and counselling. A Learner Focus week will also be taking place from 18 to 22 September 2017 with the Integrated School Health Programme Week taking place in all schools from 25 to 28 September 2017. This will include sexual and reproductive health education services to secondary and intermediate schools. The month's activities will culminate on 28 September 2017 on Integrated Service Delivery Day. This event will take place at Umso Secondary School in the Northern Cape Province to officially launch the *National Policy on HIV, STIs and TB* in the Province. The following services will also be provided to learners on the day: the donation of school uniforms to learners identified by the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), registration of birth certificates and ID documents, the registration of child support grants, as well as the provision of integrated school health services.

The remaining eight Provincial Education Departments will also be conducting similar programmes throughout the month of September 2017, with the culmination of activities into provincial launch events of the *National Policy on HIV, STIs and TB* in each respective province to encourage provincial officials, teachers, learners and parents to take ownership of the policy in order to ensure the successful implementation thereof.

Reading is an integral part of improving literacy



Room to Read handed over 37 school libraries to the DBE, with 18 libraries handed to Tshwane North schools and 24 libraries handed to Tshwane South schools as part of encouraging a habit of reading amongst young children.

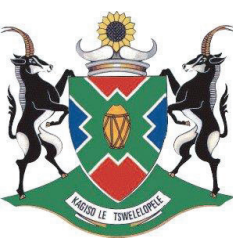
Basic Education Deputy Minister, Mr Enver Surty, accompanied by Gauteng Education MEC, Mr Panyaza Lesufi, handed over a library at Baxoxele Primary School on 25 August 2017.

Country Director for Room to Read, Mr Peter Ramatswana, said that the value of school libraries cannot be overemphasised: “We are proud to hand over these 37 libraries as a legacy for future generations”. Their goal to encourage reading and to improve literacy; however, did not end here. A further 35 libraries will be handed over to schools in the Limpopo Province and a further 15 libraries to schools in the Mpumalanga Province.

Deputy Minister Surty praised Mr Lesufi, in realising his goal to turn the Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) schools into ICT schools, saying that the Room to Read campaign of the handing over of libraries, complements the DBE’s *Read to Lead Campaign*. Deputy Minister Surty added that, “We recognise that our learners have to read to lead; this is why we produce more than 56 million workbooks annually to encourage reading, writing and arithmetic for Grade 1 to 9”.

Room to Read, along with the Nelson Mandela Foundation, handed over trophies to learners for best stories submitted during the Mandela Month celebrations. Basic Education Deputy Minister, Mr Enver Surty and Gauteng Education MEC Mr Panyaza Lesufi, received honorary awards for promoting the national reading campaign.

Regional Round-up



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Lefapha la Thuto

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Department of Education

NORTH WEST PROVINCE

North West Province

The North West Education and Sport Development MEC, Mr Sello Jonas Lehari, will lead a Departmental Investment Lekgotla at the Carousel Casino from 31 August to 01 September 2017. The main objective of the Investment Lekgotla is to invite the business community to partner and strategize with the department. Approximately 300 people will be participating in the Investment Lekgotla to discuss strategies to improve infrastructure services delivery to schools and communities. The department seeks to encourage public private partnership with the private sector across the province as long-term contracts to ensure the delivery of well maintained, cost-effective public infrastructure or services by leveraging private sector expertise.

Upcoming Events

- 01 – 28 September 2017: The DBE's Integrated Care and Support Programme activation will be taking place with a focus on the Northern Cape Province
- 01 September 2017: The provincial rounds of the DBE Spelling Bee Championships will be taking place in the Gauteng Province
- 02 September 2017: The provincial rounds of the DBE Spelling Bee Championships will be taking place in the Western Cape Province
- 04 September 2017: The provincial rounds of the DBE Spelling Bee Championships will be taking place in East London, Eastern Cape Province
- 04 September 2017: Ministerial Committee to host public consultations to evaluate Textbooks and Learning and Teaching Support Material (LTSM) in the KwaZulu-Natal Province
- 07 to 08 September 2017: The provincial rounds of the DBE Spelling Bee Championships will be taking place in the Free State Province
- 08 September 2017: The provincial rounds of the DBE Spelling Bee Championships will be taking place in Ermelo, Mpumalanga Province
- 08 September 2017: The provincial rounds of the DBE Spelling Bee Championships will be taking place in Kimberley, Northern Cape Province
- 13 September 2017: The provincial rounds of the DBE Spelling Bee Championships will be taking place in Mafikeng, North West 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
- 27 October 2017: The DBE and the South African Council for Educators (SACE) will host the 2017 World Teachers' Day Seminar at Bolivia Lodge in Polokwane, Limpopo Province
- 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.