



basic education

Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



## NEWSLETTER

# Women united in moving the education sector forward



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, paid tribute to the more than 20,000 women who marched to the Union Buildings on 09 August 1956 in protest against the extension of pass laws to women during a Women's Day event that took place at the Department of Basic Education (DBE) in Pretoria on 04 September 2017. Minister Motsekga also used the opportunity to honour women stalwarts such as Mme Adelaide Tambo, Charlotte Maxeke and Cecile Palmer for their contribution to the liberation struggle: "To them and their generation, we owe a debt of gratitude for their selfless contribution to the liberation of our country from the yoke of the apartheid pariah regime. With their passing, a century of struggle went with them. It is our duty to keep their memory alive. It is our moral responsibility to ensure that their legacy lives on".

South Africa has seen an increase in the levels of violence and brutality against women and children in our society and this is concerning. Minister Motshekga said that more needs to be done in order to address the plight of women and children, in particular. As a Department, we are increasingly working at ways to make our teaching and learning environment more gender sensitive and we have ensured that the question of rights and responsibilities becomes a component of our Life Orientation curriculum.

Three guest speakers, Justice Bess Nkabinde and former National Police Commissioner, Ms Riah Phiyega, shared their words of inspiration with the delegates. "We are able; we contribute to moving our country forward every day," said Justice Nkabinde. Ms Phiyega motivated the audience through her words: "We seem to shy away from those capabilities that are uniquely ours; allow the light inside you to shine through". Business woman, Ms Boitumelo Sebape, advised the women in attendance to "be strong, be confident and to be you".

In closure, Basic Education Deputy Minister Enver Surty thanked the strong women present for their colossal contribution towards the transformation of the education sector.

This year, Cabinet adopted "Women United in Moving South Africa Forward" as an overarching theme with a focus on OR Tambo's heroic contribution to the liberation struggle. This suggests that men such as Tambo have always been playing a critical role in supporting South African women. Tambo, and the values that he stood for, is therefore a sterling example to fellow South Africans.





# Basic Education Director-General concludes oversight visit programme in the Free State, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape and Limpopo Provinces

Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mweli, Director-General for Basic Education, recently visited 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 05 September 2017, all nine provinces have been visited. In this week's *Thuto* we feature Mr Mweli's engagements with the Free State, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape and Limpopo Provinces.

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

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

## Free State Province



## Mpumalanga Province



## Northern Cape Province



## Limpopo Province





## Guidelines on e-Safety in Schools: Educating towards responsible, accountable and ethical use of ICT in education



Goal 16 of the DBE's *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. The DBE is responsible for ensuring access to the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) environment if our education system is to be relevant and in keeping with current practices globally. The integration of ICT in education is essential for learners and teachers to develop and support their education needs throughout secondary, post-secondary and tertiary levels. The early integration of ICT into primary and secondary education is therefore vital for ensuring the integration of ICT into educational institutions and classrooms. Cell-phones in particular, are endemic in this country, having a far-reaching footprint, even in the most rural of areas, so education needs to be a step ahead in ensuring that learners are equipped to manage both the risks and the benefits.

The revised *Guidelines on e-Safety in Schools: Educating towards responsible, accountable and ethical use of ICT in education*, published by the Safety in Schools Directorate, will ensure that current practices in ICT in education is provided within a framework that promotes a safe and caring environment for learners and teachers. Furthermore, it ensures the delivery on our constitutional and educational imperatives such as the protection of human rights, redress and equity, social cohesion, accountability and independent learning.

The advantages of using ICT for education far outweigh the disadvantages; however, these disadvantages need to be managed thoughtfully and responsibly in order to ensure the protection of our children through proper Information Security (IS) education and awareness within schools. The e-Safety Guidelines seek to identify the different ICTs currently used by school communities, teachers and learners, and to recommend strategies around managing ICT for the appropriate and optimum use in, and for, education.

Issues of concern regarding ICT access in schools include online harassment and cyberbullying; physical danger and sexual abuse; exposure to unsuitable materials; plagiarism and copyright infringement; and the obsessive use of the Internet. These could also affect the physical health of the learner. Children need to be encouraged to play outside, read physical books, and engage directly with physical persons, too.

Although these guidelines have been written specifically with schools in mind it is also essential that parents, Provincial and District officials also take cognisance of the content and apply it in their own situations where relevant. Ethical and accountable use of technology applies at district level as well as in the schools. They should also support the school in the implementation of the Guidelines. Technology, as per its broadest meaning, has an imperative role to play in today's classrooms. The use of the technology, however, must be carefully and strategically implemented in order to be of the highest value to both teachers and learners. Recognising that the use of technology will increase exponentially in all our lives, the responsibility of the school is to not only incorporate technology as a valuable learning tool, but to also equip the learners to be discerning, responsible and ethical participants in the information age.



Through the Safe School Committees, schools must develop their own Acceptable Use Policy (AUP), as it must be recognised that children will bring an increasingly sophisticated range of handheld devices into schools, giving them separate access to content that is not necessarily appropriate. The AUP should be linked to, and the penalties defined by, the existing Code of Conduct that must be adopted by every public school. Teaching and learning can be greatly enhanced with increased access to communication and information and this potential needs to be maximised by teachers. Integrating technology appropriately into teaching practice is important. The teacher has to ensure that they themselves are digitally literate and can teach technology with confidence. Learning to take responsibility for one's behaviour is an important element in the education path and this includes the use of technology.

## DBE honours its commitment to the NDP and to Service Delivery Month



# NDP 2030: one nation, ONE PLAN

OUR FUTURE, MAKE IT WORK!

September is *National Development Plan 2030* (NDP) Month. During 2012, Cabinet adopted the NDP which is a long term vision and plan for the country. The NDP serves as a blueprint for the work that needs to be done to achieve a prosperous society for all. The core priorities of the NDP are to reduce poverty, unemployment and inequality. The NDP's vision is that by 2030, South Africans will have universal early childhood education, high-quality schooling and further education and training.

The NDP includes all key policy instruments developed in the previous terms of Government to drive its policy agenda. These include the New Growth Path, which sets the trajectory of economic development; the National Infrastructure Plan, which guides the roll-out of infrastructure to improve people's lives and enable economic growth; and the Industrial Policy Action Plan, which focuses on promoting investment and competitiveness in leading sectors and industries.

In support of education remaining a societal issue, the NDP called for a multi-stakeholder partnership to address education challenges. This call for collaboration is being realised through the establishment of the Education Collaboration Framework (ECF) which provides a platform for greater collaboration in the sector, increased dialogue, a consolidation of financial and intellectual resources and a co-ordinated roll out of solutions.

The 2017 national Public Service Month (PSM) will also be taking place across the country from 01 to 30 September 2017 under the theme: "Together Moving, the Public Service Forward: We Belong, We Care, We Serve". The Month is generally used to celebrate and recognise officials who follow the "Batho Pele" principles which require them to be polite, open and transparent; and to deliver good service to the public.

The DBE remains committed to the NDP goals through the *DBE's Action Plan 2019: Towards the Realisation of Schooling 2030* to ensure adherence to the *Batho Pele* principles of service excellence to provide quality education to all.



# PUBLIC SERVICE MONTH

SEPTEMBER 2017



TOGETHER MOVING THE PUBLIC SERVICE FORWARD : “WE BELONG, WE CARE, WE SERVE”

## Provincial Round-up



**GAUTENG PROVINCE**  
EDUCATION  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### Gauteng Province

The second round of the national Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination campaign is currently underway in the Gauteng Province. The vaccination drive, which aims to protect young girls from developing cervical cancer later in life, is conducted biannually. The campaign is undertaken by the Gauteng Health Department in partnership with the Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) in all public primary schools and public special schools as part of the Integrated School Health Programme. The HPV second dose campaign, which began on 22 August 2017, will conclude on 27 September 2017. The campaign will be administered to girls in Grade 4, who are aged nine years and above and who received their first HPV dose during the first HPV round in February and March 2017. It will also be administered to girls in the same grade, who did not receive their first dose during the 2017 first HPV round. Girls who were in Grade 4, class of 2016, who received their first HPV dose in August/September 2016 and are now in Grade 5 this year, are also due for a second dose. The GDE has urged parents to give consent for their children to be vaccinated. No pupils will be immunised without having a signed consent form. The department said the vaccine is safe and effective in preventing the HPV 16 and 18 strains of the virus. In an attempt to prevent HPV, the South African government has been rolling out the vaccine campaign in primary schools across the country for free.



# 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
- 09 September 2017: Minister Motshekga will be visiting Kimberley in the Northern Cape Province as part of the Second Chance Matric Support Programme Roadshow
- 10 September 2017: Minister Motshekga will be visiting Seshego in the Limpopo Province as part of the Second Chance Matric Support Programme Roadshow
- 13 September 2017: The provincial rounds of the DBE Spelling Bee Championships will be taking place in Mafikeng, North West Province
- 21 to 22 September 2017: Minister Motshekga will be meeting with District Directors at the DBE in Pretoria, 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
- 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.