



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



NEWSLETTER

Minister Motshekga undertakes a visit to Limpopo and Northern Cape Provinces as part of the Second Chance Matric Support Programme Roadshows



Having visited the North West, Gauteng, Free State and Eastern Cape Provinces, Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, shifted gear as she took the Department's flagship #SecondChance Matric Support Programme to the Northern Cape and Limpopo provinces over the course of one weekend. The Minister's visit to the two provinces was to strengthen the uptake of the Second Chance Matric Support Programme to ensure that the National Senior Certificate (NSC) is widely assessable.

On 09 September 2017, Minister Motshekga addressed more than a thousand community members at the Jim Summers hall, in Kimberley, some of whom had come from as far as Pampierstad, Barkley West and Warrington, to receive first-hand information from the Minister.

Ms Mangaka Mothibi, one of the community members shared her views about the programme. "I am humbled that you have chosen to bring such a programme to us here in Kimberley, I have been discouraged for a long-time up until this point but to see that there is another chance makes me feel more empowered. I am now confident that I will one day be employed," said Ms Mothibi, a candidate who had travelled 100km to Kimberley from Pampierstad.

On Sunday, 10 September 2017, the Minister undertook the Second Chance Matric Support Programme Roadshow to Seshego, just outside Polokwane in the Limpopo Province, to mobilise more young people to enrol with the programme. More than 1000 young people converged to be part of the roadshow. The Limpopo MEC for Education, Mr Ishmael Kgetjepe, welcomed the Minister and thanked the DBE for the mutual partnership with provinces in ensuring that the majority of the youth benefit from the Programme. "This is more than a Second Chance, it's a gateway to securing a brighter future," added MEC Kgetjepe.

The community members in both provinces hailed Government for coming up with this initiative, adding that it will play a crucial role in reducing the rate of unemployment in the country.

In her address, Minister Motshekga pleaded with the community members that since Government has introduced the Programme, it is their turn to utilise this chance to advance their academic success. The Minister further told the attendees that the power is their hands and urged them to make a decision to register with the Programme. "Through this Programme we are committed to take South Africa to a future where all of its eligible citizens have a Matric Certificate and an increased potential to employment and self-empowerment," remarked Minister Motshekga.



Basic Education Director-General wraps up his provincial engagements in the North West Province



Basic Education Director-General, Mr Mathanzima Mweli, has officially concluded the second round of his provincial engagement programme in the North West Province on 05 September 2017 with more than 170 district and provincial officials in attendance. Since the start of the programme (early August 2017), officials in all provinces had an opportunity to share plans and strategies required to attain goals set out in the *Action Plan to 2019: Towards the realisation of Schooling 2030*. The Director-General's engagements with provinces have challenged officials to review their strategies and plans so that they strengthen functionality and ensure that we maintain the trajectory of the "system on the rise".

The engagements were intended to motivate the underperforming districts to improve their performance. Through this programme, light was shed on the practice that works whilst providing options for new approaches in dealing with factors that affect learner performance. One key observation from all the engagements is that provinces have made much progress in terms of preparing schools for effective administration of the 2017 National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examination.

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

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

The legacy of iNkosi Albert Luthuli honoured during the 2017 Oral History Programme



The iNkosi Albert Luthuli Oral History Programme takes place at an opportune time when South Africa commemorates numerous historical anniversaries. The role played by our local heroes and heroines in our communities who had been denied a platform can now find expression through the Oral History Programme. The year 2017 was declared the year of Oliver Reginald Tambo and we were inclined to use this time to reflect on his life and legacy as a man that held the country together during the apartheid era. During this year's Africa Month celebrations, Mr Oliver Reginald Tambo was honoured at the Gallery of Leaders at Freedom Park in Pretoria as part of the OR Tambo Centenary celebrations. The legacy of another great leader, the late iNkosi Albert Luthuli, will also be celebrated at Freedom Park during a gala event on 01 October 2017. 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 passing 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 Programme, named after iNkosi Albert John Luthuli, also a dedicated educator, is scheduled to take place from 29 September to 02 October 2017 at the DBE in Pretoria where learners and educators will be expected to present their projects during parallel sessions. The 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 targets Grade 8 to 11 learners who have an interest in the study of History and Social Sciences, covering schools across the 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 chosen 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.



An update on the printing and delivery of workbooks

The Department of Basic Education (DBE) is currently busy with the preparations for the delivery of workbooks to public schools for the 2018 school calendar year. By the end of September, the DBE will have printed a total number of 59 019 360 Volumes 1 and 2 workbooks. The workbooks will be delivered to a total of 23 462 public schools. The distribution of Grades R to 9 volume 1 workbooks commenced on 24 July 2017. As at 11 September 2017 a total number of 18 498 (80.87%) of schools have received their 2018 workbook consignment. The total number of Volume 1 workbooks distributed thus far is 22 511 760 (78.84%).

As per plan, the delivery of Volume 1 workbooks will be completed by the end of September 2017 whereas the delivery of Volume 2 will commence on 9 October 2017 until 06 December 2017.

Volume 1 workbooks are for use by learners as from January until June while Volume 2 workbooks are for use by learners as from August until December of each year. As per plan all public schools will have received their workbooks consignment at the start of 2018 academic year.



Integrated Care and Support programme activation kicks-off in the Northern Cape Province



The promotion of health education amongst learners remains one of the most critical aspects of the schooling system, seeking a collective approach in improving the throughput rate in schools. Critical to the vision of improving quality of basic education in schools is the role and the active participation of parents. Without the support and the involvement of the family/home, schools are unable to have an influence on the development of positive behaviour of children and youth. The DBE's Care and Support Chief Directorate in collaboration with the Pixley Ka Seme District conducted the Integrated Care and Support Programme activation at Colesberg in Northern Cape Province from 04 September 2017 to 08 September 2017, to talk to parents and the communities about the issues that are affecting their children's ability to learn and perform well in schools and the importance of leading a healthy life style. The main purpose of these dialogues was also to raise awareness about the barriers that might prevent the sector from achieving several principles including access, retention, quality and efficiency. It is also envisaged that the programme will provide learners with access to comprehensive health services, especially on the Sexual Reproductive Health Services.

The DBE has identified the Province as a starting point to promote the integrated Care and Support Programme amongst learners whilst mobilising parents to assist Government in addressing challenges affecting quality learning and teaching in schools.

Close to 1000 parents from Noupoot, Norvalspont and Colesberg attended these dialogues. The DBE officials from the Health Promotion Directorate, Ms Amanda Rozani and Ms Albertina Dano also used the event as an opportunity to conduct an advocacy programme on the *National Policy on HIV, STIs and TB*. They reminded parents to work together in communities and with schools in ensuring that children leave the education sector with their National Senior Certificates in order to fulfil their life ambitions and make a meaningful contribution within the society. The administration of testing for HIV/AIDS within the schooling environment was also critically discussed during the event. The officials pleaded with parents to sign consent forms to allow pupils to be tested, saying that parents should converse with children about the significance of condom use and abstinence to prevent unplanned pregnancies or getting infected with HIV so that they can grow up with an in-depth knowledge of the Sexual Reproductive Health Services and rights that are available for them within the country.

This initiative will continue in various parts of the province until the end of September this year.

Regional Round-up



Eastern Cape

The Eastern Cape Provincial Education Department recently launched the Matthew Goniwe bursary in honour of Matthew Goniwe, one of the Cradock Four revolutionaries who was also a Mathematics and Science teacher. The shortage of Mathematics and Science teachers has been a challenge in the Eastern Cape Province and the bursary will fund students majoring in these critical subjects. These students will, upon the completion of their studies "give back" four years of their time teaching in areas where there is a dire need for intervention in these subjects. The bursary covers tuition fees, accommodation, study material and meals. This bursary will therefore breathe hope into the lives of disadvantaged communities.

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
- 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
- 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 pace 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



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