



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



NEWSLETTER

Building data driven education systems through collaborative efforts



The analysis of education data, as part of planning and monitoring for improving the performance of the education sector, topped the agenda during the Data Summit held at the Birchwood Hotel and OR Tambo Conference Centre in Boksburg from 19 to 20 September 2017. Considering the scope of the South African schooling system, key education stakeholders are required to implement data driven strategies to make a meaningful contribution towards improving quality education in public schools.

During the Summit, Basic Education Director-General, Mr Mathanzima Mveli, addressed a team of data experts, district directors, school principals and provincial and national senior officials in the EMIS, Curriculum and District Management spheres, who convened to strengthen the effective use of the South African Schools Administration and Management System (SA-SAMS) and LURITS data in addressing deficits within the education sector. The two day Summit, which was funded by the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation, was also aimed at informing education stakeholders about the effectiveness of the Data Driven Districts (DDD) Programme aimed at supporting the improvement of learner outcomes through increased quality, availability, analysis and use of education data by providing tools which help collate and aggregate and view school-level data from SA-SAMS, through the use of an online Dashboard with up-to-date information and reports at their fingertips for data driven decisions and interventions.

The Summit also saw Government and private sector participants working together to find the best mechanisms to empower schools in the area of data capturing and analysis, and included an address by the Executive Director from Discovery Insure Ltd, Mr Themba Baloyi.

Speaking at the Summit, Basic Education Director-General, Mr Mveli, indicated that there has been a significant increase in the number of schools adopting SA-SAMS data: "Over the years, the Department has invested heavily in improving the data structures to support schools and education officials at various levels. It is evident that data is playing an increasingly important role in providing critical insights into many of the challenges we face in delivering quality education in this digital age. Valued data systems such as SA-SAMS, the Learner Unit Record Information and Tracking System (LURITS), the DDD Dashboard and other Business Intelligence (BI) systems assist in utilising this data to conduct in-depth analyses and to construct impactful interventions. The DBE data systems are critical - not only to inform the Basic Education Sector, but also other government departments in support of administering their mandates to achieve the goals of the *National Development Plan* (NDP) - services based on a data driven approach by using adequate, reliable and quality data."

Basic Education Deputy Minister, Mr Enver Surty, also attended the Data Summit Gala Dinner on the evening of 19 September 2017, to present awards to those provinces and schools that are making huge strides in terms of using the SA-SAMS data to make informed decisions in supporting schools. All provinces received recognition in the form of awards in various categories, and in acknowledging their strengths on various EMIS accomplishments during the Data Summit Gala Dinner.

During the Awards Ceremony, Mr Frans Kok from the Free State Province walked away with the EMIS Outstanding Award in recognising his enormous contribution to EMIS as a whole. The Free State Province also received the SA-SAMS Module Usage Award as they are the only province successfully making use of all modules in SA-SAMS.

The Eastern Cape Province received the ID Number Award which was designed to recognise excellence in processing correct learner ID numbers, enforcing funding to be linked to these ID numbers, and for ensuring that schools provide accurate data on learner profiles. The SA-SAMS Going the Extra Mile Award, was presented to Mr Ashraf Edross, the Deputy Principal from the Bishop Lavis High School in the Western Cape Province for going above and beyond his school duties in promoting SA-SAMS. KwaZulu-Natal Province took home the Geographic Information System (GIS) Award for having fully implemented GIS for spatial analysis. Having won the LURITS Award, Northern Cape Province received recognition for being the province with the highest percentage of learners on LURITS with correct ID numbers. Another province to follow on the list of awardees was the Limpopo Province for its best SA-SAMS support structure for schools. The North West Province went home with the SA-SAMS Reporting Usage Award being recognised for Learner Performance Data being available on a quarterly basis and even shared with the Provincial Legislature. The Mpumalanga Province received recognition for being the first province to acknowledge and award schools in using SA-SAMS. Gauteng took a lead in the Innovation Award and was recognised for being the first province to introduce an Online Registration System which will soon be linked to SA-SAMS.

Another special award, the SA-SAMS School Usage Award, aimed at recognising outstanding usage of SA-SAMS in a school for the eight provinces utilising SA-SAMS, was nominated by the respective provinces. The winning schools were:

- Nonyaniso Primary School from the Eastern Cape Province
- Phomolong Primary School from the Free State Province
- Tsweleo Primary School from the Gauteng Province
- Ogwini Comprehensive Technical High School from the KwaZulu-Natal Province
- Dikubu Primary School from the Limpopo Province
- Takheni Secondary School from the Mpumalanga Province
- Paballelo High School from the Northern Cape Province
- Stadt Primary School from the North West Province



World School Milk Day to be celebrated nationally



The first World School Milk Day (WSMD) was celebrated during September 2000 and has since become an annual global event. In South Africa, WSMD was celebrated for the first time on 28 September 2016. The aim of the celebration is to increase awareness of where milk comes from, how it is processed, the nutritional benefits and the importance of milk for growing children, and to support local dairy producers. Milk is provided at schools once a week as part of the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP).

On 27 September 2017, the DBE and five Provincial Education Departments will once again join other countries to mark and celebrate WSMD under the theme “Dairy Gives You Go”. The DBE, in collaboration with the Milk Producers Organisation (MPO) and the Consumer Education Project (CEP) of Milk South Africa, will join in the celebrations that will be taking place at the Grootbrakrivier Primary School in the Eden Karoo District, Western Cape Province. An advocacy campaign is also planned at Laerskool Vorentoe, a nearby primary school, on 26 September 2017.

Milk is a protein that plays a vital role in growth and development, immunity and the health of bones, skin, and nerves. Benefits from milk products such as cheese, butter and cottage cheese are essential in maintaining good health and is a great source of calcium for all ages. Milk contains important nutrients such as calcium, vitamin D, protein and potassium.

Participating schools were presented with learning material to guide teachers and to educate learners about the nutritional and health benefits of milk and other dairy products. The learning material is based on the requirements of the Curriculum Assessment Policy Statements (CAPS) and consists of two main topics for the Foundation Phase (Grades 1 to 3) and Intermediate Phase (Grades 4 to 7). In addition, there will be a quiz and a competition with four winners at each school receiving dairy hampers, which will be donated by Parmalat SA.

The DBE continues to support initiatives to strengthen nutritional education in schools to enhance healthy lifestyles among learners, educators, school administrators, parents, food handlers, school vendors and tuck-shop operators. The NSNP, which currently feeds approximately 9 million learners in 20,619 schools, aims to enhance the learning capacity of targeted learners in public primary, secondary and identified special schools.

The Integrated Care and Support Programme continues in the Northern Cape Province



Health promotion in schools is essential for the wellbeing of learners, teachers, parents and the community. The DBE’s Care and Support Chief Directorate continued with the Integrated Care and Support Programme in the Northern Cape Districts of Colesberg, Noupoot, and Norvalspont from 11 to 15 September 2017. The week’s activation focused on teachers and principals from schools in the area, with health screenings on Body Mass Index (BMI), blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar levels, optional Human Immune Virus (HIV) and Tuberculosis (TB) tests. The Northern Cape Province was chosen as a focus for this Programme as this province requires intervention to address concerns of access, retention, quality and efficiency of both learners and teachers in schools as principal factors that hamper the efficiency of the education sector.

The Programme addresses issues relating to the teaching environment, both in the classroom and in the home. It is for this reason that the Department has taken a collective approach to the Programme by not only focusing on medical health, but also educating educators on physical education and financial well-being. The discussions on financial well-being were led by representatives from the National Credit Regulator and Momentum Life. The two organisations addressed matters on credit and debt management, retirement planning and medical insurance.

Educators also participated in various sporting activities that challenged both their physical and mental fitness with codes such as football, rugby, netball, jump-rope, leg racing and meditation sessions represented. The general response received from the educators was overwhelmingly positive, reporting that the impact of the Programme is already being experienced in their schools and communities. The Programme is continuing in the respective districts, focusing on the care and support of learners. The DBE’s Care and Support Chief Directorate, in collaboration with the Pixley Ka Seme District, commenced with the Integrated Care and Support Programme activation in the Northern Cape Province on 04 September 2017 to talk to parents and the communities about the issues that are affecting their children’s ability to learn and perform optimally in schools.

Annual Heritage Education Schools Outreach Programme celebrates national heritage during Heritage Month



The DBE, in partnership with the National Heritage Council (NHC), the National Arts Council (NAC), the National Film and Video Foundation (NFVF) and the South African National Parks (SANParks) will once again host the annual Heritage Education Schools Outreach Programme (HESOP) from 02 to 06 October 2017. This year's event will be taking place at the Mokala National Park, Kimberley, in the Northern Cape Province. The Programme affords learners in Grade 8 to 11, who are passionate about their heritage, an opportunity to learn more about their heritage and culture as tools of nation building.

During 2016, 32 learners from eight provinces made presentations on the 1976 Uprisings, the 1956 Women's March and the significance of these two historical events on social cohesion in present day South Africa. They also visited the Cradle of Humankind site at the Sterkfontein Caves and Maropeng to learn about the evolution of mankind and fossils. The information they had gathered at Sterkfontein, was translated into a presentation which answered a research question posed to them by a panel of experts. Kwa-Zulu Natal Agricultural High School came out tops during the competition, winning a prize to the value of R25,000 and a trophy. The 2017 research topics are based on the 100 years centenary celebration of Oliver Reginald Tambo, the 100 years of the sinking of SS Mendi, as well as the 40 years centenary celebration of the death of Steve Bantu Biko. Through these research topics, the learners will be expected to highlight the importance of arts, culture and heritage initiatives in South Africa and identify the tangible and intangible cultural heritage in their communities and suggest ways in which they could be preserved. The learners are expected to compile a portfolio of evidence, as well as a research paper which will be presented to a panel of adjudicators.

HESOP continues to be one of the main strategic platforms available where learners engage on the many facets of national heritage. The Programme aims to build greater awareness, especially amongst the younger generation, on the importance of safeguarding tangible and intangible heritage for present and future generations. The DBE, together with the NHC, conducted district and provincial workshops, as well as provincial elimination rounds during May to September, culminating into the national event during October 2017.



Regional Round-up



Western Cape

The matric class of 2017 is entering a challenging and stressful time as they move towards the build up to the National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examinations. Some candidates will commence with their examinations on 16 October 2017, with practical examinations in Computer Application Technology (CAT). However, the vast majority of candidates will start on 24 October 2017 with English home language, and first and second additional languages. The Western Cape Education Department (WCED) reported that NSC candidates across the Western Cape have already begun writing the 2017 NSC trial examinations.

District teams have worked closely with high schools to support learners over the past three years to ensure their retention, and to prepare them for this year's NSC examinations. This included analysing results per school to identify strengths and weaknesses per subject in both teaching and learning, and taking steps to address weaknesses and to build on strengths. In addition, districts have arranged winter and spring schools during holidays, among other initiatives. The WCED has provided every school with a book for every learner, "Tips for Success" with study advice for every subject and links to online digital revision materials. The WCED has developed an online library of digital resources, housed on the Department's ePortal, as part of the Western Cape Government's eLearning Game Changer Programme. A wide range of matric revision videos are also available on the WCED's YouTube channel. These are available via the WCED's Matric Support website, which also provides answers to 57 frequently asked questions.

Upcoming Events

- 23 September 2017: The 2017 National Spelling Bee Competition to be hosted at the University of South Africa (UNISA)
- 24 September 2017: Heritage Day
- 24 – 26 September 2017: The NDP Learner Debate Competition will be taking place in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 26 – 27 September 2017: A Communities of Practice Forum in Mathematics Education and Science will meet at the DBE building in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 26 – 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 October 2017: Deputy Minister Enver Surty to host a Business Breakfast on the status of textbook development and the digitisation project, in partnership with Deloitte, at the Southern Sun Hemingways, East London Province
- 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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