



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



NEWSLETTER

Message from Minister Angie Motshekga on World Teachers' Day 2017



The 5th of October is a day observed around the world where we celebrate and appreciate the role teachers' play in shaping our society and creating the leaders of tomorrow.

It is vitally important that we show our dedicated hard working teachers the appreciation they deserve. Day in and out, teachers deal with outstanding challenges that are a reflection of the society we live in. These include: working in communities where violence is rife; where drug abuse and alcoholism are a challenge; where households are headed by children; where poverty is prevalent and where teenage pregnancy is an unfortunate reality.

World Teachers' Day allows us to celebrate the outstanding teachers in our schools who, despite these challenges, they go above and beyond their expected duties to create a cohesive educational environment and a beacon of hope for their learners.

They not only teach the curriculum, but they show their learners how to deal with life challenges through sound logic and reasoning; they instil values and compassion; they encourage learners to be studious; and inspire them to broaden their horizons in order to achieve their dreams through hard work and dedication.

It saddens me that this is not true for all of our teachers and that a small handful, who do not set a good example for our learners, give the profession a bad name. All teachers need to take a stand to protect the image of their vocation and speak up about fellow colleagues who taint the noblest profession with unbecoming conduct.

The theme for this year's UNESCO World Teachers' Day is, "Teaching in Freedom, Empowering Teachers". At the Department of Basic Education we strive to empower our teachers and encourage them to continuously develop through the multiple programmes that are presented by not only the Department, through the Teacher Appreciation and Support Programme (TASP), but also by the South African Council of Educators (SACE), the Education Labour Relations Council (ELRC), the Education, Training and Development Practices Sector Education and Training Authority (ETDP-SETA), the Teacher Trade Unions, the National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT) and various other Partners of the Department that operate in and provide essential support to the basic education sector.

In commemoration of OR Tambo – freedom fighter, lawyer and teacher – the Department of Basic Education will host a Teachers' Seminar on World Teachers' Day to celebrate the values he stood for by promoting the importance of education and the empowerment of teachers.

To our teachers - we thank you for your often selfless work and the sacrifices you make on a daily basis to ensure that our nation's children have the best opportunity to succeed and make a positive impact to the development of our country.

Thank you.

Celebrating our teachers during Teachers' Month

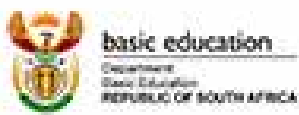


October is Teachers' Month
Teaching in Freedom, Empowering Teachers
...the heartbeat of our nation

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World Teachers' Day is an annual global event initiated by UNESCO and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and celebrated with its partners, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and Educational International (EI), to honour and celebrate teachers annually on 05 October. The international theme for this year's commemoration is: "Teaching in Freedom, Empowering Teachers". The international theme links well with Government's 2017 national celebrations in honour of Mr OR Tambo, freedom fighter, lawyer and teacher, who personified the values of a quality educator by promoting the importance of education and the empowerment of teachers.

The Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga, was joined by teachers, the OR and Adelaide Tambo Foundation and the various organisations that form part of the Teacher Appreciation and Support Programme (TASP), to celebrate World Teachers' Day during a gala event that took place at the Sheraton Hotel in Pretoria under the theme: "Valuing Teachers, Improving Their Status".

Minister Motshekga made reference to teachers such as Mr OR Tambo, saying "We must celebrate excellence in leadership as a means of recognising the positive contribution that outstanding leaders make in our society. This also helps us to preserve our stories for posterity. We have the duty to preserve our heritage so that future generations understand the significance of the sacrifices that were made for us to be where we are today. The Department of Basic Education believes in the adage that says the quality of a school cannot exceed the quality of its teachers. In this regard, we are doubling our efforts in the area of teacher professionalism, continued learning programmes including leadership and school based management. Without a transformed teaching force, our current education system will never be ready for the 4th Industrial Revolution".

Minister Motshekga, used this opportunity presented by the commemoration of this special day to launch a month of activities to thank all those teachers who go above and beyond the call of duty every day to ensure that our children have the best chance of success in the world as well rounded active citizens. This will be done through the TASP, which is led by the Department of Basic Education (DBE) and the South African Council for Educators (SACE); and is supported by the National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT), the Education Labour Relations Council (ELRC), the ETDP SETA, Teacher Unions and School Governing Body Associations. The aim of the TASP is to support the *Education 2030 Framework for Action* by developing and celebrating South African teachers throughout the year, and not just on the occasion of World Teachers' Day in October each year, as teacher development and support is one of the major focus areas of the DBE under the motto: "The teacher, the heartbeat of the nation".

World Teachers' Day and Teachers' Month, represent a significant effort to raise awareness, understanding and appreciation for the vital contribution that teachers make to education and development across the globe. It also highlights the rights and responsibilities of teachers as well as international standards for their initial training and further education, recruitment, employment, teaching and learning conditions. Teachers have the power to influence young minds and thereby the trajectory of the country. In many instances teachers fill the void left by parents when it comes to instilling morals and values in the future generation. Let's work together to improve the status of the teaching profession during Teachers' Month and show our teachers that we value, support and appreciate them.



Turkish Minister of Education pays a courtesy visit to the Department of Basic Education



On 05 October 2017, Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, met with Dr Ismet Yilmaz, the Turkish Minister of National Education. The DBE has been negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Turkish Ministry of Education since 2013. The proposed Agreement is to facilitate exchanges in terms of education experts as well as sharing knowledge and experience in the area of basic education.

The formal diplomatic relationship between South Africa and Turkey was established in 1992; however, the relationship on various levels predates this by 130 years. South Africa and Turkey are countries with similar developmental patterns and problems; and are able to relate to each other on education, economic and socio-political issues.

In terms of education, an Agreement was signed in 2003 which provided for direct co-operation between the two countries on the exchange of academics and educators in areas of common interest, as well as the exchange of information on education and expertise in order to ensure mutual acquaintance between the two countries on their educational systems. This Agreement expired in 2013. As the co-operation was found to be mutually beneficial, the two countries renewed a process of negotiating a new Agreement in the field of basic education during 2013. The areas of co-operation are curriculum and textbooks; assessments, evaluations and examinations; the continuous training of teachers; special education (for gifted and disabled students); and education inspection, supervision and guidance.

Minister Yilmaz said: “Turkey recently opened a Turkish Cultural Centre, the Yunus Emre Enstitüsü, in Johannesburg and the Turkish Government would like to open schools in South Africa. The Turkish Government has signed protocols with 20 African countries and will be hosting a conference of Education Ministers in Istanbul for African Countries from 19 to 21 October 2017. Turkey has made advances in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and 63 000 schools provide tablets to every learner and have installed smartboards and internet connectivity in every classroom to access the highways of communication”.

Minister Motshekga expressed her opinion that closer co-operation with Turkey in respect of ICT and Digital Technology will prove beneficial: “Operation Phakisa (“phakisa” meaning “hurry up” in Sesotho) advocates for the leveraging of ICT as an enabler for improving the quality, access, equity and redress in basic education. ICT has the possibility to engage learners with resources beyond the traditional classroom, such as access to global information or talented teachers from other learning environments. The Gauteng Province and the Western Cape Province are the most advanced implementers of ICT in schools. However, South Africa’s rural areas are experiencing many challenges. We need to ensure that all our learners and teachers have access to ICT”.

The meeting resolved to bring the negotiation of an MOU to finalisation. The text of the MOU will include co-operation in ICT as well as the establishment of Turkish independent schools in South Africa. Deputy Director-General (DDG) for Planning, Information and Assessment, Mr Paddy Padayachee, Director in the Office of the Minister, Mr Raymond Khala, the Ambassador of Turkey in South Africa, Ms Elif Comoglu Ulgen, the Ambassador for South Africa in Turkey, Mr Tshepo Ranamane and Ms Phozisa Nqadolo from International Relations and Multilateral Affairs Directorate in the DBE, also attended the meeting.

National Schools Moot Court Competition - a platform for learners to experiment with the application of the country's supreme law



The DBE, in partnership with the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, the Universities of Pretoria, Venda and the Western Cape, the Foundation for Human Rights, the Law Society of South Africa and Cliff Dekker Hofmeyr Inc., is hosting the National Schools Moot Court Competition for high schools from 04 to 08 October 2017.

Deputy Minister of Basic Education, Mr Enver Surty, addressed the delegates at the official opening of the Seventh National School Moot Competition held at the University of Pretoria on 05 October 2017, saying: “The 2017 Schools Moot Court Competition Problem Statement that you will be arguing is on Cultural Rights. It thus highlights some of the challenges that still exist within our schools and communities regarding cultural practices versus the constitutional value system. It also addresses the need for all to feel confident in their own identities. Hence it becomes imperative to consider, recognise, acknowledge and appreciate the diverse religious and multicultural belief systems that exist within our country”.

“This then makes the National School Moot Court Competition critical and the best place to begin to make a lasting impact within our schools. As part of classroom based activity, it forms part of the discursive essay writing and offers learners an opportunity to apply the content of the *Constitution* in a real life setting, as well as a platform to express ways of how we can observe and consider the human rights principles as the glue that keeps us together,” Deputy Minister Surty concluded.

The annual South African National Schools Moot Court Competition, established in 2011, aims at creating greater consciousness and understanding in South African schools and communities about the *Constitution* and the values embodied by it through the active participation of learners in a Moot Court Competition. Since its inception in 2011, the Competition has explored various sections of the *Bill of Rights* such as rights, equality, freedom of expression and human dignity. It offers a platform for young people to experiment with the actual application of the country's supreme law.

The teams have to use the 2017 hypothetical problem statement to write their essays and compete in the provincial rounds, the national semi-finals and the national finals on intricate constitutional matters around freedom of expression. The case study tests the extent to which racism and hate speech find expression within the Constitutional Court as part of a paradigm shift amongst the youth and the entire society for nation building and unity.

The winners receive financial assistance towards their first year studies at any South African University to study law. The Moot is divided into written and oral rounds. All secondary schools in South Africa are invited to send a team of two learners to submit two short essays, each arguing the opposing view of the set fictional question. A panel of experts evaluate the submissions and select the four best submissions from the nine provinces which are then invited to the semi-final oral rounds held at the University of Pretoria. The finals, which include a prize giving ceremony, will be taking place at the Constitutional Court in Johannesburg on 08 October 2017.



The Director-General supports the last push activities in Provinces



The closure of schools for the Spring Break offered provinces an ideal opportunity to support learners with revision and consolidation activities (last push) through “Spring Classes,” before the commencement of the 2017 National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations. The Director-General of Basic Education, Mr Mthanzima Mveli, who is well known for “leading from the front”, began his visits to several of these classes across the nine provinces. The purpose of the visits are to motivate learners to take advantage of the classes and buckle down to some serious studying so as to improve the quality of passes in the 2017 NSC examinations.

In responding to questions relating to the role and impact of these “Spring Classes”, the Director-General said that, “The Spring Classes are being institutionalised in provinces as one of two major consolidation of learning activities on the school calendar. While the organisation of the classes in each province may differ in the packaging of programmes, duration, number of subjects targeted etc. they are essentially similar in outcomes. All of the provinces, are preparing learners towards improved examination results”.

In encouraging learners to stay focused on their studies, Mr Mveli said that thorough preparation for the examination will decrease anxiety and raise confidence levels. It is important that learners remain calm, collected and this will only be possible if they leave no stone unturned in their quest for understanding concepts and content and knowing how to apply them in all subjects.

Some learners took the opportunity to confirm the value of the classes, citing that the classes provided them with space that is conducive to studying and that this augurs well for improved performance in the examinations.



Oral History Programme pays tribute to i’Nkosi Albert Luthuli



The DBE hosted the iNkosi Albert Luthuli Oral History Programme from 29 September to 01 October 2017 at the DBE Conference Centre and at Freedom Park in Pretoria, in an effort to unearth the untold and forgotten stories of our country. The Programme is named after Albert John Luthuli, Nobel Prize laureate, educationist and former President-General of the African National Congress. The Programme was introduced during 2005 in an effort to promote oral history and to provide learners with an opportunity to celebrate and review the progress we as a nation have made in the strengthening of our democracy.

Learners had to choose one of five topics on the values of our heroes. They then had to identify, interview and tell a life-story of a community leader who emulated the same characteristics as the chosen leaders. Teachers also participated in the Programme and were required to develop a work plan on how they facilitated the oral history project in their classrooms.

Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, congratulated the winners and expressed her gratitude to those who made an effort to honour and preserve the history of our country: “We cannot over-emphasize the crucial role that our forefathers and community members, whose stories received little or no recognition, have played in contributing towards building the future of our children and developing our communities, and the country at large. The Programme is important for all learners, educators and officials who take part - from school level, up to District and Provincial level, to the DBE - in developing a culture of teaching and learning amongst our communities”.

The overall winner of the Programme was Dayyaan Edries, a special needs learner from the Western Cape Province (Vista Nova High School), taking the reins from the Gauteng Province who had won two years in a row. “I have worked tirelessly preparing for the Programme and winning encourages me to want to challenge myself even more, both academically and socially,” he said. In second place was Onela Moaseme from the Gauteng Province (Gibson Pillay Learning Academy) and Amogelang Motsumi from the North West Province (Ramokonyane High School) finished in third place.

Learners and teachers taught the value of water during National Nutrition Week



- Drinking water helps you maintain a healthy weight
- Water has no sugar or kilojoules!
- Drinking water keeps you hydrated
- Water may help to prevent headaches, fatigue and irritability
- Water may help with digestion and prevent constipation
- Tap water is much cheaper than any other drink!

Drink lots of clean safe water

The DBE, in partnership with Nestlé SA, will be celebrating National Nutrition Week (NNW) at the Harry Gwala Primary School in Tshepisong, Roodepoort, Gauteng Province on 10 October 2017 and at the Logagane Primary School in the Logagane Village, North West Province on 13 October 2017. The NNW is an annual event which will be celebrated from 09 to 15 October 2017 under the theme: “Rethink Your Drink - Choose Water” in collaboration with the Department of Health (DoH) as the lead Department.

South Africans must understand that water is a valuable and scarce resource. Water constitutes the major portion of the human body (50-70% or about two-thirds) and is essential for life. It regulates body temperature and is needed to enable the body to absorb nutrients from food and distribute them through the body. Water also removes waste products from the body. It is important to drink clean, safe water to replace water losses that occur through the body to prevent dehydration. Fatigue, irritability and headaches are some of the symptoms of dehydration.

The *National Development Plan* (NDP) 2030 stipulates that health is not just a medical issue, but that the social determinants of health also need to be addressed to reduce non-communicable diseases to ensure “a long and healthy life for all South Africans”. National Nutrition Week is closely linked with Goal 25 of the *Action Plan 2019: Towards Schooling 2030*, in promoting the wellbeing of learners in pursuit of academic performance.

The 2017 NNW campaign targets learners in all public schools from the Foundation and the Intermediate Phase, i.e. Grades R - 7 involving Life Skills (LS) educators and volunteer food handlers, as well as learners in the Senior Phase, involving Life Orientation (LO) educators, volunteer food handlers and parents.

The campaign is aimed at creating awareness amongst learners and teachers on the health benefits of drinking water; to encourage learners and teachers to make water their beverage of choice; to illustrate the link between the regular consumption of sugary drinks and health risks; and to help them to identify sugary drinks and to determine how much sugar they contain. The theme for the 2017 NNW is in line with the South African Food-Based Dietary Guidelines (FBDG): “Drink lots of clean, safe water” and “Use sugar and food and drinks high in sugar sparingly”.

Learners in both schools will engage in the *Healthy Kids Programme* aimed at promoting healthy lifestyles and providing nutritional education to promote their wellbeing. A *Young Chef’s* demonstration will also be taking place where professional chefs will demonstrate to learners how to prepare healthy snacks and meals. Learners will take part in physical exercises, games, information sharing sessions and dialogues on good nutrition and wellbeing.

Regional Round-up

Eastern Cape Province



The Eastern Cape Province celebrated World Teachers’ Day on 05 October 2017 by commemorating the death of one of their provincial icons, Matthew Goniwe, who was killed by the apartheid regime 32 years ago. Goniwe was a teacher who left the comfort of his home in Cradock to teach Mathematics and Science in the rural areas of Mqanduli. The Eastern Cape Provincial Education Department has taken the opportunity to encourage teachers by reminding them of the exceptional heroes of the struggle who originated from the province. Eastern Cape Department of Education spokesperson, Mr Mali Mtima, said that teachers in the province were celebrated on Thursday, 05 October 2017, in Butterworth. “Teachers will have the opportunity to listen to speakers who will motivate them and enable the profession to be held in high regard,” Mtima said.

Free State Province



Key provincial education officials in the Free State Province are working very hard to sustain the trend of excellent results this year. More than 4 500 learners in the Lejweleputswa District attended Spring Classes during the September school holidays in preparation for the 2017 NSC Examination. The Spring Camp Programme is an annual initiative hosted by the Provincial Department of Education during school holidays to help underperforming schools to improve their results. Basic Education Director-General, Mr Mathanzima Mweli, visited the district on 03 October 2017, to encourage learners to prioritise their studies in September School Holidays. The Director-General also visited the Spring Camps to provide support to the Provincial officials who are responsible for co-ordinating the programme to reach out to the targeted learners. Currently, the District utilises the camps as an opportunity to pay special attention to the progressed learners and borderline learners who performed below average in the June examinations. In some camps, learners in Grade 9 to 11 were also accommodated. Another strategy that is helping the Province to lead in education is the effective implementation of the Quality Learning

and Teaching Campaign, which plays an integral role in mobilising parents to work with schools in improving the throughput rate in the province. During his visit, the Director-General visited six Spring Camp centres including Unitas Secondary School, Harmony High School, Teto High, Mosala High School Mosala High and Ventersburg High School and Welkom High School where he motivated learners.

Limpopo Province



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, has welcomed the Vuwani community's decision, taken on 02 October 2017, to lift a government services shutdown that has prevented thousands of learners from accessing schooling. The Minister said that she is pleased that learners will be able to resume schooling, especially Grade 12 learners. A catch-up plan will be implemented with immediate effect, starting with a meeting of Circuit Managers and District Directors. Grade 12 learners returned to school on 03 October 2017, while all other learners will return to school on Monday, 09 October 2017. With just a few days to go before the start of the National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations, community members decided to suspend their protest in order to ensure learners would no longer be adversely affected. The Department said it will be working closely with the Provincial Education Department to monitor the implementation of a comprehensive catch up plan to ensure learners are adequately supported and prepared to sit for their examinations.

Grade 12 Learners in the Mopani District, Limpopo province have dedicated 10 days of their school holidays to attend the Spring Camps in a bid to improve quality passes during the 2017 NSC Examinations. On 30 September 2017, the Basic Education Director-General, Mr Mathanzima Mveli, visited the district to monitor the progress of the School Spring Camps been conducted as part of the provincial last push intervention programme. During the visit, the Director-General visited five centres namely Seboye Secondary School, Mafutsane Secondary School, and Mabushe High School in Thabina area. Mr Mveli further visited Bokgaga and Burgersdorp Secondary Schools in the Shiluvana area. Through these camps, the Limpopo Province has also deployed teachers and tutors to various centres to empower the progressed learners and repeaters so that they too, are able to achieve bachelor passes.

Northern Cape Province



The Basic Education Director-General, Mr Mathanzima Mveli, conducted an oversight visit to the Northern Cape Spring Camp centres in Upington on 29 September 2017 as well as Kimberley and Kuruman on 01 October 2017, to motivate learners as they were make their final preparations for the 2017 NSC Examinations. Due to the demand of the New Criteria of Inclusive Basket, the new examination assessment tool developed by the Department of Basic Education (DBE) in 2016, provinces were urged to strive for achieving a higher number of bachelor passes as well as sustaining a trend of throughput rate in all grades. This initiative put pressure on provinces to deal with the level of dropout rate in various forms so that the underperforming schools are capable of delivering quality education. The province had put several measures in place to prepare learners for the 2017 NSC Examinations. Several Districts have embarked on the 10 days School Spring Camps aimed at improving learning outcomes amongst progressed and borderline learners in public schools. The School Spring Camps, which are carried out in all five Districts (Frances Baard, John Taolo Gaetsewe, Pixley ka Seme, Manakwa and ZF Mgcawu Districts), were organised to empower learners with more content knowledge, particularly in high enrolment subjects such as Physical Science, Mathematics Literacy, Accounting, Life Science, and Geography Pure Maths and Business Studies.

Upcoming Events

- 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
- 07 October 2017: The Director-General's Spring School Monitoring visit will be taking place in Bojanala, North West Province
- 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 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)
- 11 October 2017: The Director-Generals Spring School Monitoring visit will be taking place in Johannesburg West, Tshwane South, Tshwane North and Gauteng North, Gauteng Province
- 14 October 2017: The Director-Generals Spring School Monitoring visit will be taking place in Manenberg, Gugulethu, Bonteheuwel, Langa and Athlone, Western Cape Province
- 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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ONE PLAN**

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