

Minister Motshekga visits Grade 12 learners at Diepdale Secondary School to monitor the NSC Examinations



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, visited the Diepdale Secondary School Examination Centre on 25 October 2017, to provide words of encouragement and support to Grade 12 learners before the commencement of the Accounting examination paper.

Minister Motshekga visited the examination centre as part of monitoring activities that are taking place across all Provinces to ensure that the necessary procedures are being followed at all accredited examination centres during the National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examinations. This year, a total of 636,814 full-time learners and 161,475 part-time candidates enrolled to write the 2017 NSC Examinations.

Addressing Grade 12 learners at the Diepdale Secondary School, Minister Motshekga stated that Government has done its part by providing the necessary support and advice to learners for them to remain committed to their studies and to achieve excellent academic results. "We are working collaboratively to ensure that learners are fully supported to perform optimally. Our main aim is to help learners to obtain their NSC Certificates whilst working towards quality results rather than percentages," remarked Minister Motshekga.

Minister Motshekga also took time to address the rest of the learners during the school assembly, urging them to spend quality time preparing for each examination paper that they will be writing at the end of the academic year: "If you have been raised in underprivileged families, this is your opportunity to turn the situation around. Education is the foundation for success; I urge you to prioritise your studies and to remain focused until the end of your examinations."

The Department of Basic Education (DBE) and all nine Provincial Education Departments (PEDs), worked very hard to ensure that all Grade 12 learners are well prepared to write the final NSC examinations with confidence. The Class of 2017 had benefited from a number of resources provided by the DBE, such as the distribution of DVDs with exemplars in all NSC subjects to Subject Advisors; *Mind the Gap* self-study guides; and Mathematics and Physical Sciences Siyavula textbooks, distributed by the DBE in partnership with the Shuttleworth Foundation. The DBE has also provided Information and Communication Technology (ICT) support to provinces, schools and candidates through a variety of digital and broadcast solutions.

DBE and the Rotary Clubs of South Africa partner to improve reading in public schools



The *Read to Lead Campaign* is fulfilling its objective of promoting a reading culture in public schools. The Campaign is a flagship programme established by the Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga, in 2015 to encourage teachers, parents and learners to value the importance of reading.

Minister Motshekga launched the DBE's *Read to Lead* partnership with the Rotary Clubs of South Africa at the Rotary Humanitarian Distribution Centre in Bedfordview on 20 October 2017. The DBE has entered into a two year partnership with the 204 Rotary Clubs located in South Africa, divided amongst the three Rotary International Districts 9350, 9370 and 9400, to promote and support various literacy upliftment initiatives in schools and communities across the country.

Rotary International's community service wheel started turning in South Africa in 1921, with the establishment of the first Rotary Club in Africa, the Rotary Club of Johannesburg. For more than 96 years Rotarians throughout South Africa have been supporting the development and upliftment of South African communities. One of these Rotary support programmes that specifically focuses on the promotion of literacy, is the Rotary Humanitarian Distribution Centre which was established in Johannesburg 15 years ago. The Centre has been working hand-in-hand with Rotary Clubs in Texas in the United States of America (USA), in collecting educational and recreational books from schools, universities and communities across Texas, to ship to South Africa for distribution to schools and community literacy initiatives through the Rotary Clubs of Southern Africa.

This project allows South Africans access to free educational or recreational books. The books are collected by school teachers, religious organisations, non-governmental organisations, correctional centres, government departments, orphanages and homes for the elderly. The Centre distributed approximately 178,000 books between July 2016 and June 2017.

Initiatives such as these are pivotal in ensuring that the Department is able to fulfil its ambition of resourcing school libraries. More than 6,000 libraries have been handed over to various school communities across the country through partnerships between the DBE and various sponsors including Room to Read, AVBOB and the Molteno Institute for Language and Literacy.

Chairperson of the Rotary Humanitarian Distribution Centre, Ms Shirley Downie, said: "We welcome this partnership and we are assured that many learners will benefit from our collective efforts in supporting schools, as it will play a crucial role in improving learners' reading ability".

During the launch, Minister Motshekga visited the storage facilities where books are received from the USA, sorted and packaged for distribution. The Minister expressed her gratitude to the Rotary Clubs of South Africa for showing an interest in promoting education and reading. "I would like to extend my gratitude to your organisation and to the many other entities that have partnered with the DBE in promoting reading in schools," said the Minister.

Second Chance Matric Support Programme offers a second chance at success



As the Class of 2017 commenced with the NSC Examinations on 23 October 2017, more than 160,000 part-time candidates, who have been supported through the Second Chance Matric Support Programme, also commenced with examinations.

The main focus of the Second Chance Matric Support Programme for this year was on learners who qualified to write the supplementary examinations, including those improving their 2016 NSC marks; progressed learners sitting for the Modularised Writing option of the 2017 NSC; candidates sitting for the amended Senior Certificates (written in June); individuals who failed to meet the NSC requirements; or individuals upgrading their NSC qualification results who are enrolled as part-time candidates for the November 2017 examinations.

The DBE, through its Second Chance Matric Support Programme, has been working with Provinces in recruiting young people who did not complete the NSC to enrol for the Programme. Minister Motshekga recently embarked on roadshows to the various provinces to assist young South Africans in the advancement of their studies. Approximately 5,000 youth who were supported through the Programme during 2016, have been able to obtain their NSC Certificate studying through its various platforms (digital support, radio lessons, television lessons, Facebook support, DVDs and print revision material, as well as face-to-face classes at 50 venues that were utilised to accommodate approximately 6,591 candidates across the country).

Director for the Programme, Ms Zarene Govender, said that the Programme is operating very well, adding that the support shown by Provinces enables the Department to reduce the dropout rate within the schooling system as those who did not pass Matric are given another chance to improve their results. “The overall results for the 2016 supplementary examinations indicate that there was an improvement in the results of all nine provinces with the overall pass rate increasing from 70.7% to 72.1%. The total number of candidates that achieved the NSC had increased by 10,131 candidates and the number of candidates who obtained admission to Bachelor’s studies had increased by 1,313.

The DBE has partnered with the Department of Higher Education and Training’s (DHET) Community Colleges to extend the face-to-face classes. It is envisaged that the DBE will extend support for the 11 home languages during 2018. “The Revision booklets for these 11 subjects have been developed, and are currently in the final stages of production,” concluded Ms Govender.



National School Nutrition Programme Best Schools and District Awards recognise excellence in the school feeding programme



The National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) Best Schools Awards was initiated by the DBE in recognition of excellence, innovation and the dedication of Districts and schools in the successful implementation of the NSNP. The Department also acknowledges the dedication of key role players such as School Management Teams, Educators, Volunteer Food Handlers and School Governing Bodies for their contribution to the success of the Programme.

Through the partnership with the Tiger Brands Foundation (TBF), the Department awards the winning school with a kitchen or industrial kitchen equipment to the value of R450,000 and a three year in-school breakfast feeding programme for both learners and educators; and the winning District is awarded with office equipment to the value of R50,000. Nominated schools are awarded with prizes consisting of cooking equipment and eating utensils.

The NSNP Best Schools and District Awards are but one of the ways in which the Department acknowledges and encourages schools and Districts to showcase excellence and share good practice. All schools are encouraged to enter for the 2017 Awards - the new closing date for entries is 30 November 2017.

Click on the below link to download the entry forms:

<https://www.education.gov.za/Programmes/NationalSchoolNutritionProgramme/NSNPAwards2017.aspx>

Teachers urged to draw lessons from the life of OR Tambo



Life and legacy of
OR TAMBO.
100 YEARS

South Africans will celebrate the centenary of the birth of Oliver Reginald Tambo who was born in the Nkantolo village outside Mbizana in the Eastern Cape Province on 27 October 1917. The centenary celebrations will take place under the theme, “*Life and Legacy of OR Tambo*”, and will be used to draw lessons from his life. Tambo, a freedom fighter, lawyer and teacher, personified the values of a quality educator by promoting the importance of education and the empowerment of teachers.

“OR Tambo was indeed, for the better part of his adult life, an embodiment of all that was good and noble about teaching and leadership. He was a repository of the best values and principles upon which our movement was founded and sustained. He truly represented the hopes, dreams and aspirations of the masses of our people. In the education space, OR Tambo was a Mathematics and Physical Science teacher, loved choral music, and embodied the ideas of hard-work, honesty and selflessness.” – Mrs Angie Motshekga, Minister of Basic Education.

Additional to the above, and in honour of our teachers, the DBE and the South African Council for Educators (SACE), will host a World Teachers’ Day Seminar at Bolivia Lodge in Polokwane, Limpopo Province on 27 October 2017 to celebrate the values Tambo stood for, by promoting quality education through the development of competent teachers.

The DBE will use this opportunity to thank teachers for their selfless work and the sacrifices they 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. The DBE and SACE offer support to teachers through the Teacher Appreciation and Support Programme (TASP), in collaboration with various other partners that provide essential support to the basic education sector such as the Education Labour Relations Council (ELRC), the Education, Training and Development Practices Sector Education and Training Authority (ETDP-SETA), the Teacher Trade Unions and the National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT).



October is Teacher Appreciation Month

Teaching in Freedom, Empowering Teachers.

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Regional Round-up

KwaZulu-Natal



education

Department:

Education

PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

The recent devastating storms in the KwaZulu-Natal Province have not left a damper on the province's examination preparations, and all centres across the province have been audited by Provincial Education Department officials to ensure full scale compliance and readiness, with a total number of 153,624 full time candidates writing the 2017 NSC Examinations. Superintendent of Education, Mr Selvan Chetty, said the Province is positive that the results will improve as pupils have been subjected to a rigorous programme this year, having to work during weekends and holidays to ensure that they are successful. Addressing the state of readiness, KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education spokesman, Mr Kwazi Mthethwa, reaffirmed that the department is ready for the administration of this examination and that all processes from the registration of examination centres to release the results have been planned for.

LimpopoLimpopo Province



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

The Limpopo Provincial Education Department (PED) is confident that 100,041 full-time Grade 12 candidates for the Class of 2017 and 27,555 part-time candidates will write their final examinations without any challenges or irregularities. The PED is set to deliver on a 80% pass rate this year to improve on last year's regression of 3,4% to 62,5%, compared to the 2015 results. The PED was assured that the catch-up classes for pupils, especially in Vuwani where more than 29,000 learners missed classes due to community protests earlier this year, would help them to ensure a good pass rate.

Upcoming Events

- 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
- 27 October 2017: The *Let's Play* Schools Physical Education Challenge will be taking place at the Nelson Mandela Primary School in the Free State Province
- 27 October 2017: Deputy Minister, Mr Enver Surty, will be hosting the Second Chance Matric Programme Roadshow at Zwelihle Primary School in Hermanus, Western Cape Province
- 27 October 2017: The Gobidolo Senior Primary School in Mthatha, Eastern Cape Province, will be handed over to the community as part of the Accelerated Schools Infrastructure Delivery initiative (ASIDI) Programme
- 03 November 2017: The Ngcenduna Junior Secondary School in Mthatha, Eastern Cape Province, will be handed over to the community as part of the Accelerated Schools Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (ASIDI) Programme
- 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
- 05 January 2018: Release of candidates' results for the 2017 National Senior Certificate Examinations
- 17 January 2018: Start of the 2018 Academic School Year
- 19 January 2018: The closing date for applications to the supplementary examinations
- 01 – 31 March 2018: School Governing Body (SGB) Elections



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