



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



NEWSLETTER

Minister Motshekga delivers country statement on behalf of the South African delegation to the 39th UNESCO General Conference in Paris



“The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) hold hope for us, as they have been incorporated into our government’s *National Development Plan: Vision 2030*, which has a 2030 horizon; and maps out the national development priorities for our country, which are articulated in the *2014-2019 Medium Term Strategic Framework* of our Government, and aligned to the *African Union’s Agenda 2063*. Focused on sector outcomes, South Africa has adopted a multi-layered integrated approach to planning and delivery, incorporating an evidence-based approach, driven through the Presidency and the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation. In addition, Statistics South Africa, a government agency, is enjoined to periodically provide our government with the requisite empirical evidence, data and statistics on a variety of issues.”

Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, was speaking in Paris where she delivered a country statement on behalf of the South African delegation to the UNESCO General Conference today, 03 November 2017.

“The integration of the SDGs with our strategic programmes is especially important in a complex sector like education, which in our country straddles basic education, vocational / technical education, as well as higher education and training. In the basic education sector for example, several evaluations have been completed, in order to ensure that the implementation of strategic programmes is aligned substantively to the anticipated outcomes envisioned globally.” Minister Motshekga also made reference to the *Sustainable Development Goals: 2017 Indicator Baseline Report*, which sheds light on the extent to which South Africa has implemented the SDGs, and in what areas the implementation needs to be accelerated in order to rid South Africa of the extreme triple challenges of poverty, unemployment, and inequality.



In closing, Minister Motshekga congratulated Her Excellency, Mrs Zohour Alaoui, who has been unanimously elected President of the 39th session of the General Conference of UNESCO saying, “The Delegation I lead, holds the view that if we are united in the vision for UNESCO; we will be able to find solutions together for the common interest of humanity. The Republic of South Africa reaffirms its commitment to promoting a peaceful, equitable and just world in the 21st century and beyond”.



South African youth encouraged to improve matric qualification for a better quality of life



Basic Education Deputy Minister, Mr Enver Surty, encouraged the youth to seize opportunities presented by the Second Chance Matric Support Programme during a Roadshow that took place at Zwelihle Community Hall in Hermanus, Western Cape on 27 October 2017.

Addressing the community of Zwelihle, the Deputy Minister said: “Young people need to open the gateway to a better life by obtaining their matric certificate and upgrading their results. The youth can enrol for the Second Chance Matric Programme at Overberg Education District Office to complete their National Senior Certificate (NSC) qualifications”. The Deputy Minister added that the initiative was an example of how government programmes empower the youth through quality education.

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. The Programme is an open platform for all learners who did not meet the requirements of the NSC or the extended Senior Certificate and provides support through face to face classes, Multimedia Broadcasting Solutions, a Digital Online Course, as well as curriculum support resources to candidates.

The event was attended by district officials, council representatives, young beneficiaries of the programme and leaders from civil society.

DBE welcomes the Parliamentary Committee of Sport and Culture of the Free State of Saxony



On 01 November 2017, Basic Education Deputy Director-General, Mr Paddy Padayachee, chaired a Bilateral Meeting between the Department of Basic Education (DBE) and the German parliamentary delegation from the Free State of Saxony, who undertook a courtesy visit to the DBE to draw lessons from various attributes of the South African schooling system.

The meeting, which was hosted at the DBE in Pretoria focused on inclusive education, vocational education, the National Education Evaluation Development Unit (NEEDU) and the transformation of the post-Apartheid schooling system.

Dr Stephen Taylor, Director for Research Co-ordination, Monitoring and Evaluation, highlighted the major achievements and challenges that the education sector have experienced over the past years.

Chief Director for NEEDU, Dr Sibusiso Sithole, emphasised the importance of evaluating the education system independently, adding that the evaluation cycle takes a five year period with monitoring every two years.

Ms Marie Schoeman from the Inclusive Education Directorate informed the delegation that South Africa had equipped 700 schools to deal with inclusivity as the DBE wishes to have all learners with special needs in school by 2021.

The delegation was informed that Government has made a deliberate decision to increase the number of qualified artisans and electricians through the strengthening of the Technical, Occupational and Vocational education streams (Three Stream Model). The delegation indicated that South Africa and Germany could collaborate on vocational education, since Germany is already advanced in this area.

In addition to other presentations, Mr Sifiso Ngobese, Director for Sport and Enrichment in Education said that learner support and curriculum enrichment programmes are critical components of the education system, adding that sports is another form of promoting social cohesion at school level.

In a post-Apartheid, democratic country such as South Africa, it is important to know the past to ensure a better future for all. For this reason, the meeting concluded with discussions about the importance of History lessons in school as part of the Curriculum Assessments Policy Statement (CAPS). The delegation was informed that History is taught from Grades 4 to 6 and Grades 7 to 9.



DBE prioritises Learners with Special Needs during National Disability Rights Awareness Month



South Africa will be observing annual National Disability Rights Awareness Month from 03 November to 03 December 2017, with 03 December commemorated as International Day of Persons with Disabilities and National Disability Rights Awareness Day.

The DBE has made visible strides in the education of Learners with Special Educational Needs (LSEN). The developments include the implementation of the South African Sign Language subject, which commenced during 2015 in 42 Schools for the Deaf; the creation of special units in Special Schools for learners with autism; and establishing autism-specific Special Schools in the Gauteng Province, progressively adding new Special Schools across provinces from just over 300 in 2002 to 453 in 2016. Specifications were developed for the connectivity of all Special Schools, including the standardisation of the process to procure and distribute assistive devices, and the *Policy on Accommodations and Concessions* was promulgated. A total of 725 ordinary schools were designated to Full Service Schools for mainstream inclusion.

In light of the above developments, the sector has recorded improved access to education for learners with disabilities within the compulsory school-going age to 93% according to Statistics South Africa's *General Household Survey* of 2016. Notwithstanding the improved access to education for special needs learners, the sector remains challenged by out-of-school children with disability. In responding to the challenge, the sector has among other developments, drafted a *Strategy for Improving Access to Education for Children with Autism* and has developed a *Policy on the Quality of Education and Support*, as well as a Learning Programme to mobilise out-of-school children with Severe to Profound Intellectual Disability.

In aligning itself with the 2030 vision of the National Development Plan (NDP) of "providing inclusive education that enables everyone to participate effectively in a free society", the DBE has introduced the *Policy on Screening, Identification, Assessment and Support* (SIAS), the Institutionalisation of Curriculum Differentiation, as well as the diversification of curriculum offerings through the Three Stream Model, which will engender a General Certificate of Education (GCE) at NQF level 1 for all learners.

Gobidolo Senior Primary School handed over to Ngojini community



When one travels over the hills of Ngojini to the sleepy town of Mqanduli, 100km outside Mthatha along an unforgiving dirt road, over the river and through the valley, one will reach Gobidolo Senior Primary School at the top of the hill.

Parents, community members and leaders arrived to see what the next generation has to look forward to. “Ndi vuyile nyani” (I am extremely happy) Mrs Jadile, a member of the School Governing Body (SGB) proclaimed: “As a community, we have come a long way to transform these dusty roads and underdeveloped structures into a state-of-the-art facility; we built a school through our common vision”.

Having previously officiated over the hand-over of Dweba Senior Secondary School, Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature Member, Mr Mpumelelo Saziwa, was at hand to deliver Government’s message of a commitment to quality education saying, “As Government we have committed to ensuring that all learners in this Province and this country have access to quality basic education.”

As is the case with all Accelerated Schools Infrastructure Development Initiative (ASIDI) Programme, the school boasts state-of-the-art facilities such as a Computer Laboratory, a Science Laboratory and a fully resourced Library. With this R25 million investment in the community of Ngojini, the DBE continues to restore the dignity of rural education.



DBE partners with Active Education and SuperSport to host the 2017 Let’s Play Physical Education Challenge in all nine provinces



The DBE partnered with SuperSport and Active Education to host the *Let's Play* Physical Education Challenge at the Nelson Mandela Primary School in Sasolburg, Free State Province on 27 October 2017. The Challenge is a programme created by Active Education to promote physical activity amongst primary school learners, whilst paving a positive path towards the wellbeing of underprivileged youth. The winner of the Challenge receives an all-weather multi-purpose course worth R1.3 million, sponsored by The Sports Trust, which will be built at the winning school.

“The Challenge focuses on taking a few of the physical activity exercise components from the curriculum and integrating them in a fun and exciting obstacle course where the learners must perform activities involving agility, speed, crossing, midline exercises and handball co-ordinates which are vitally important in creating and developing the motoric abilities to participate in an organised sport,” said Mr Vaughn Bishop, manager for Community Social Investment for SuperSport.

A Grade 4 teacher, Ms Tebalo Nzunga, said that Physical Education is essential in creating a well-balanced life for every individual: “When learners are physically active, their academic performance also benefits”.

Grade 3 teacher, Ms Emily Tshabalala, said that she was pleased that the Nelson Mandela Primary School was identified a top school in the Free State Province owing to their excellent performance during the Challenge. This has instilled a sense of pride in the learners as they aspire towards the values and principles that the Late Former President, Nelson Mandela, after whom the school had been named after, had lived for.

DBE representative, Mr Potledi Ngoepe, expressed his gratitude to the learners, teachers, the School Management, the School Governing Body (SBG) and the supporters at the event for their enduring commitment to the programme and congratulated the school for reaching the finals, encouraging them to once again enter the Challenge during 2018.



DBE and PEDS endeavour to achieve a 100% textbook delivery rate for the 2018, 2019 and 2020 school calendar year



The DBE's Learning and Teaching Support Material (LTSM) Directorate is working closely with the various provinces to ensure that all learners will have access to the necessary learning material during the 2018 school calendar year. The processes of textbook delivery have been running smoothly in several provinces.

Since 2011, the DBE has been developing National Catalogues to ensure the effective delivery of textbooks across the country. These Catalogues were developed in line with the gradual implementation of the Curriculum Assessment Policy Statements (CAPS). The Catalogue includes textbooks for Grades 1 to 12, South African Sign Language, Braille, Large Print and Literature for Grade R and FET (Grade 10 to 12). The DBE has also developed a Sector Plan which guides all provinces in terms of the delivery of textbooks to schools. According

to the Sector Plan, all deliveries are expected to be completed before the end of October every year to be followed by "mop-up" processes aimed at addressing shortages within the various provinces.

Mr Sifiso Sibiya from the LTSM Directorate, indicated that the DBE has already developed and distributed the Minimum Schoolbag guidelines to all nine provinces to afford learners an opportunity to access the minimum quantity and quality of materials required by the CAPS. "This document outlines the Minimum Schoolbag with material that each learner should have access to, per schooling phase. Procurement processes in the various provinces are ongoing," explained Mr Sibiya.

During 2015, National Treasury, in collaboration with the DBE and Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) have set up two transversal contracts which relate to the provisioning of stationery and textbooks. The Department is in communication with all nine provinces to participate in these transversal contracts to benefit from economies of scale and work towards achieving 100% universal coverage.

Various provinces are currently working on their "mop-up" processes to ensure that all schools receive their ordered top-up textbooks for 2018. The universal coverage in respect of the provisioning of textbooks is currently at 95%, however the percentage is influenced by the low or non-retrieval of textbooks by schools," concluded Mr Sibiya.

Provincial Round-up

Gauteng



The Nokuthula (Learners with Special Education Needs) LSEN School, valued at R300 million, was unveiled by Gauteng Premier, Mr David Makhura, in Lyndhurst, Johannesburg on 31 October 2017. The school will accommodate learners with severe intellectual disabilities, severe to profound intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum disorder as well as those with mild to moderate intellectual disabilities. Learners will have access to the General Certificate of Education: Technical Occupational Curriculum. Therapists and doctors will also be available to ensure that the children are appropriately cared for. Nokuthula LSEN School will educate 560 learners, with 80 accommodated at the school's boarding facility. The school will officially open its doors to learners during 2018. The Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) has enrolled approximately 4,000 learners in special needs schools across the Province. Makhura was accompanied by the MEC for Education, Mr Panyaza Lesufi and MEC for Infrastructure Development, Mr Jacob Mamabolo.

KwaZulu-Natal



National and local government, in partnership with municipalities, should continue its awareness campaigns and work with schools to ensure that children are provided with information to deal with challenges caused by natural disasters. The frequency of lightning incidents during the summer months had increased, and communities are advised to install lightning rods at their homes as part of mitigating the impact. Acting MEC for Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), Ms Weziwe Thusi, said that by-laws should be crafted that would compel all public facilities such as schools, hospitals, community halls and new infrastructure to feature lightning conductors that meet the nationally determined standards for safety. On 24 October 2017, two schoolgirls were killed by lightning while on their way to school in Msinga in the KwaZulu-Natal Province. Earlier this year a 14 year old girl Top of Form was left in a critical condition after she had been struck by lightning in Thabong, near Welkom in the Free State Province, while two others sustained minor injuries. The safety of our learners remains our first priority.

The KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Education Department has expressed shock over the death of five teachers who passed away in a road accident in Ladysmith on 31 October 2017. Preliminary reports suggest that they were travelling to school when their staff transport vehicle collided with another vehicle, which had lost control after being shot at. The cause of the shooting is not yet known. District Officials have since been dispatched to visit the affected schools and families to gather more information about the unfortunate incident. KwaZulu-Natal Education MEC, Mr Mthandeni Dlungwana, extended his condolences to all the families of the bereaved.

Upcoming Events

- 26 November - 03 December 2017: The National Teaching Awards (NTA) adjudication process will be taking place at the Protea Hotel, OR Tambo Airport in the Gauteng Province
- 28 November 2017: End of the 2017 National Senior Certificate Examinations
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- 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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ONE PLAN**

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