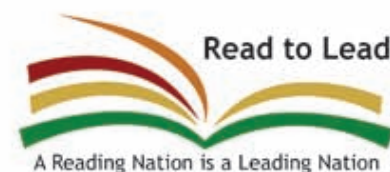




basic education

Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



## NEWSLETTER

# Minister Motshekga delivers keynote address during the 3rd VW Annual Literacy Conference held at the People Pavilion in Uitenhage



“The Department of Basic Education (DBE) owes a debt of gratitude to the bright sparks at VW South Africa, in partnership with Nal’ibali, who work effortlessly to change the lives of those communities in which they work, in support of Sustainable Educational Projects. We are pleased that our partnership with VW South Africa is impacting on the literacy endeavours of our learners. This event is significant because it highlights the importance of developing the skill of *reading for meaning* in the early years of a child’s life and to encourage support for quality basic education.”



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, delivered a keynote address during the 3<sup>rd</sup> VW Annual Literacy Conference held at the People Pavilion in Uitenhage on 16 November 2017 under the theme: “Reading 4 Meaning”.

Minister Motshekga touched on the 1,000 School Libraries and the *Read to Lead* Campaigns. The aim of the 1,000 School Libraries Campaign is to revitalize and make available 1,000 School Libraries per year in all needy schools from 2015 until 2019; the DBE has already delivered 4,500 libraries. The DBE also successfully launched the *Read to Lead* Literacy Ambassador Programme. As an important part of the *Read to Lead* Campaign, prominent personalities in sport, music, art, culture, literature, community development and other fields have been asked to support the development of a reading culture among youth and the community as a whole by pledging to be reading ambassadors.

Research has concluded that improving the generally very low levels of Language and Mathematics competencies in the Foundation Phase (Grades R to 3) requires both fixing the overall functionality of the school, and running interventions aimed at changing teaching practices in the classroom. One of the biggest developmental challenges facing South Africa today is the high number of learners who do not learn to “read for meaning” in the early years of school.

The recent launch of the Early Grade Reading Study Report reaffirmed that poor literacy is a contributing factor in poor learner outcomes. This is in line with the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS 2011) which found that 58% of children were not learning to read for meaning by Grade 4. Poor reading proficiency is one of the root causes of school dropout in Grades 10-12. The DBE and Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) are implementing various strategies to support early grade reading.

In closing, Minister Motshekga said that, “the most effective partnerships are where partners not only enrich each other but also find ways where they can mutually benefit each other. Our singular focus is making reading fashionable again. If we make reading a lifestyle of our children and adults, South Africa will become an oasis of intellectual snobs in a positive sense of the word”.



# Deputy Minister Enver Surty delivers address at the 4th Annual Dr Chota Motala Memorial Lecture in Durban



Deputy Minister of Basic Education, Mr Enver Surty, will deliver an address at the Management College of Southern Africa (MANCOSA) 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr Chota Motala Memorial Lecture in Durban on 17 November 2017. MANCOSA is a postgraduate institution established in the post-1994 period and has made significant achievements in contributing to the training and development of leaders in the public and private sectors across Southern Africa.

The annual memorial lecture is held in commemoration of the courage, leadership and contributions of the late Dr Motala, and in celebration of his life as a political activist. The Deputy Minister will join an illustrious list of previous speakers that include Messrs Mike Mabuyakhulu, Pravin Gordhan and Former President Kgalema Motlante in celebrating an intellectual, a caring medical professional and selfless community leader.

Dr Motala was born in Dundee on 14 June 1921. In 1938, he matriculated at Sastri College where he was involved in student politics. His studies towards a medical degree in India commenced in 1939 and after qualifying as a medical doctor in 1947, and doing his internship, he returned to South Africa to set up a medical practice in Pietermaritzburg. Dr Motala will be remembered as a true hero because he left an indelible mark in serving the down-trodden and fighting in the struggle for a truly non-racial, non-sexist and democratic South Africa.

The Memorial Lecture of Dr Chota Motala takes place as we celebrate the Oliver Tambo Centenary Year. Tambo is regarded as one of the greatest liberators of the 20<sup>th</sup> century alongside stalwarts such as Nelson Mandela, Charlotte Maxeke, Walter Sisulu, Govan Mbeki, Chief Albert Luthuli and many others. Through the life of Dr Motala we learn that education is key on the road to success. With such a good example of resilience displayed by Dr Motala, we therefore owe it to ourselves and our forbearers to ensure that the youth of South Africa have access to education. Educating the youth is critical for the country's investment and economic development. Hence O.R. Tambo said: *"The children of any nation are its future. A country, a movement, a person that does not value its youth and children does not deserve its future"*.

## Collective efforts ensure a credible and successful NSC Examination





The Department of Basic Education (DBE), in partnership with the Provincial Education Departments (PEDs), continue their hard work to ensure a credible and successful National Senior Certificate (NSC) examination. Question papers with high enrolment numbers have already been written and the feedback from learners and teachers are that most of these papers were fair and of a high standard - balanced in terms of cognitive demand. The final NSC examination paper will be written on 28 November 2017.

The DBE has confirmed that the Marking Standardisation Meetings (MSMs) have commenced for question papers that have already been written. The Director for the National Assessment and Public Examinations Directorate, Ms Priscilla Ogunbanjo, indicated that, “The marking of the 128 NSC question papers will be done by the DBE, while the non-official Languages will be marked by the Independent Examination Board (IEB). In the main, the marking of scripts is done by provinces, except for some small enrolment subjects which are centrally marked by the DBE. Prior to the commencement of marking, National MSMs are conducted to ensure the reliable and valid marking of all candidates’ scripts”.

“In preparation for the National MSMs, and immediately after each paper is written, the provincial Chief Marker (CM) and Internal Moderator (IM) conduct the pre-marking of a sample of scripts. They hold consultative meetings with other teachers or subject specialists to discuss the standard of the question paper and the candidates’ responses gauged from the pre-marking. A week after the paper is written, the provincial CMs and IMs attend a two day National MSM, convened at the DBE. Day one is dedicated to the standardisation of the marking guideline for all relevant responses to be discussed by provinces. Day two is for the training and authorisation of the CM and IM. A pre-meeting between curriculum specialists, the panel of examiners, and Umalusi moderators, precedes each meeting where a preliminary review of the question paper and marking guidelines is conducted in preparation for the MSM.

The MSM provides an opportunity for experts, curriculum specialists, IMs and CMs of all PEDS to interpret and apply the standardised marking guideline and to hone their technical marking skills. A Tolerance Range (TR) is established for every paper and each participant is expected to be able to mark accurately in compliance with the standardised marking guidelines and tolerance range for the paper. The Tolerance range can be described as the agreed deviation between the markers score and the moderators score. Generally only a 2 to 3% deviation between the marker and moderator is tolerated. Where the deviation exceeds this range, then the scripts are returned for remarking. This process ensures that utmost care is taken in the marking of each candidate’s script. The implementation of the TR during marking ensures consistency among markers and across all PEDS and contributes to the accuracy of marking.

The 2017 NSC marking session will take place from 30 November to 14 December 2017. The marking session will begin with the training of all markers by the CMs and IMs for each paper. They will replicate the national training approach in their provinces to ensure that the marking is standardised according to the approved marking guideline and in compliance with the TR. To ensure reliable and accurate marking, a per-question marking approach is implemented so that each marker becomes an ‘expert’ in the question that is marked over the 10 to 12 day marking session. The marking teams are hierarchically organised to ensure moderation and accountability of markers, senior markers, deputy chief markers, the chief marker, and the internal moderator. Additional and external quality assurance of marking is conducted by the DBE onsite moderators. Umalusi also conducts onsite verification of the marking to be able to declare that the marking was reliable and valid. It is estimated that all provinces will complete the marking of the NSC examination by 14 December 2017.

## Bhekisizwe Primary School handed over to Mqanduli community



Members of the Mayoral Committee of the King Sebata Dalinyebo (KSD) Municipality attended the hand-over ceremony of the Bhekisizwe Primary School in Mqanduli village, Eastern Cape Province on 10 November 2017. The new state-of-the-art school in the OR Tambo Inland District formed part of the centenary celebrations of the *Year of OR Tambo*.

Councillor Dumani Zozo, the Executive Mayor of the KSD Municipality, said: “The doors of learning shall be opened for all. Let us teach our youth to respect their communities and to embrace a spirit of Ubuntu for progress and unity”.

The School Principal, Mr Tshemese, committed the School Management Team to the delivery of high performance leadership, teamwork and unity. The Chairperson of the School Governing Body (SGB), Mr Dudumayo added that, “We are working towards one goal to enable learners to realise their future dreams”.

The Accelerated Schools Infrastructure Development Initiative (ASIDI) Programme continues to restore the dignity of rural education by replacing school infrastructure built from inappropriate material with modern state-of-the-art infrastructure.

# Second Chance Matric Programme affirms that everyone deserves a second chance at education



The Dobsonville community participated in a Second Chance Matric Programme Roadshow which took place at the Forte High School in Soweto, Gauteng Province on 11 November 2017. The Roadshow attracted learners, out of school youth, parents and the religious communities from Emseni and Umuzi Wabazingcwele Churches of Zion.

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 initiative was an example of how government programmes empower the youth through quality education.

The DBE also presented learners from Dobsonville High School, PJ Simelane Secondary School and George Khoza High School, who are aspiring to become teachers, with information about the Funza Lushaka Bursary Scheme. The DBE established the Funza Lushaka Bursary Programme (FLBP) in 2007 to recruit motivated and academically gifted youth to make teaching a career of choice. The aim of the Programme is to attract young, motivated and appropriately trained teachers into the teaching profession. The Funza Lushaka website provides valuable information for applicants and prospective teachers and can be accessed at [www.funzalushaka.doe.gov.za](http://www.funzalushaka.doe.gov.za). The online application system opened on 01 October 2017 and will close on 12 January 2018.



# NDP Essay Competition for Grade 12 Learners



The poster features the NDP 2030 logo at the top, a banner reading 'Essay Competition for Grade 12', and a photo of students in a classroom. The main text encourages participation in the NDP 2030 essay competition, promising 'WIN AMAZING PRIZES!'. It specifies the topic as defining the ideal South Africa by 2030 and provides submission details: a 2-page essay in English, Arial font size 12, submitted via email to Thabang.Mokgoshi@dpme.gov.za by 31 December 2017. The DPME website is listed for more information.

The National Development Plan (NDP) 2030 is a plan for our future, we all have to play our part to make it work

**Enter the NDP Essay Competition for Grade 12 and stand a chance to WIN AMAZING PRIZES!**

**Topic: define your ideal South Africa by 2030 and how you will play your part in attaining that goal**

The application form is accessible on the departmental website.  
Submit your 2 page essay via email to Thabang.Mokgoshi@dpme.gov.za  
All essays must be typed in english using Arial, font size 12.  
Closing date: 31 December 2017.

For more information visit: [www.dpme.gov.za](http://www.dpme.gov.za)

The Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) has initiated the National Development Plan (NDP) Essay Competition for Grade 12 Learners. The objectives of the competition are to create awareness and educate the youth about the *NDP 2030 Vision* as an overarching plan for the country; to encourage active citizenry and partnership between Government and the private sector; to highlight the importance of education as one of the NDP outcomes; and to encourage society to play their part in constructively contributing to the future of our country. The NDP aims at eliminating poverty and reducing inequality. South Africa can realize these goals through education and development - drawing on the energies of its people, growing an inclusive economy, and promoting positive leadership and partnerships.

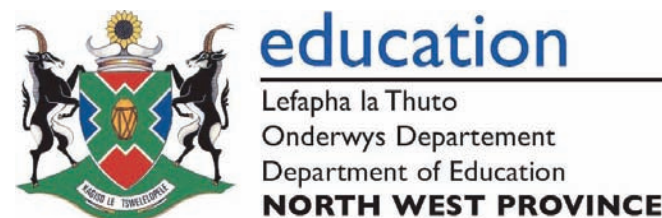
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The application form is accessible on the DPME website:

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## Provincial Round-up

### North West Province



The North West Department of Education and Sport Development is ready to implement the usage of African languages by targeting 119 schools in the Province during 2018. The announcement was made during a recent Incremental Introduction of African Languages (IIAL) Summit held at Delareyville in the Tswaing Local Municipality in the North West Province. The IIAL Programme is aimed at strengthening the use of African Languages; improving the proficiency in and utility of the previously marginalised African languages; and increasing access to languages by all learners beyond English and Afrikaans. From 2014 to date, the Department has listed 50 schools that are incrementally introducing African languages. The target is to see the teaching of African languages taking place in all targeted schools from Grade 1 in 2018 up to Grade 12 by 2029. Teachers will be given support and trained to deal with challenges that might arise whilst learners will be provided with the necessary toolkits.

### Northern Cape



The Northern Cape Provincial Education Department (PED) held their Provincial Teaching Awards at the Mittah Seperepere Convention Centre in Kimberley, Northern Cape Province, on 13 November 2017. Northern Cape MEC, Ms Martha Bartlett, said during the ceremony: “It is hard to think of a more important or inspiring responsibility than being a teacher. Your achievement shows that despite the challenges and controversy we face in our education system our schools continue to have a cadre of torchbearers, tirelessly working hard to deliver quality teaching. Thank you, and congratulations to all recipients of the prestigious teaching awards. I wish all our provincial winners well, and trust that you will fly the Northern Cape flag high at the National Teaching Awards scheduled to take place on 17 February 2018 in Johannesburg, Gauteng Province”.

## Gauteng



As part of the Disability Rights Awareness Month (DRAM), the Gauteng Provincial Government announced a dedicated page within the Recruitment Portal for People with Disabilities. The Province is under-performing in terms of numerical representation of persons with disabilities in relation to the total staff complement. The minimum requirement is the employment of 2% of persons with disabilities and the Province has been performing at 1,6%. The portal will offer the following services for Persons with Disabilities: the uploading of job advertisements and CVs; online application of posts; and the creation of a pool of suitably qualified and accelerated professionals for recruitment purposes aimed at equity, inclusivity and meeting Employment Equity targets.

The page can be accessed at: <http://professionaljobcentre.gpg.gov.za>

## Upcoming Events

- 17 November 2017: Deputy Minister Enver Surty will be delivering the keynote address at the MANCOSA Annual Dr Chota Motala Memorial Lecture which will be taking place at the Chota Motala Auditorium in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal Province
- 22 – 28 November 2017: The DBE World AIDS Day commemoration will be hosted at the Dikana High School at Ulundi in the Zululand District, KwaZulu-Natal Province
- 24 November 2017: A Powerful Learning Around You (PLAY) open day is scheduled to take place at the Denis Hurley Centre in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal Province
- 25 November to 10 December 2017: The 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children is an international awareness-raising campaign. It takes place every year from 05 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) to 10 December (International Human Rights Day)
- 22 November to 13 December 2017: The Director-General for Basic Education, Mr Mathanzima Herbert Mwel, will be monitoring Marking Centres in the various provinces
- 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
- 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



# NDP 2030: one nation, **ONE PLAN**

OUR FUTURE, MAKE IT WORK!