



basic education

Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



NEWSLETTER

## Minister Motshekga celebrates World Children's Day



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, took a back seat to listen to the views and voices of children who took over the day's agenda for World Children's Day on 20 November 2017. The event, hosted by the Kara Heritage Institute in partnership with UNICEF, was a colourful celebration of children's rights.

It was a fun day, but with a serious message, where children around the world came together to fight for, and discuss their rights, and also their place in society and how to meet their full potential. It was a time for learners to shine and that they did, under the theme: "When kids 'take over' high-visibility roles in media, politics, business, sport and entertainment to shine a light on the most pressing challenges faced by their generation".

Learners shared inspirational poetry about the challenges they face as young people. These challenges include abuse, neglect, poverty and bullying, among others. Learners also shone a light on the rights children can celebrate in South Africa. They thanked Minister Motshekga for creating an enabling environment where they are able to thrive and grow to their full potential, and acknowledged that in many other countries this was not the case for children.

Mr Herve Ludovic De Lys, UNICEF Country Director for South Africa, also addressed learners, speaking about the plight of children in his home country of Mali, and encouraged South African learners to make the most of all opportunities presented to them.

Minister Motshekga acknowledged that, while South Africa is a signatory to the *World Children's Charter*, we still have a long way to go before children in the country are completely free from abuse, poverty and bullying.

"Our children, you are the most important of all South African citizens. You carry the burden of ensuring our countries future." Minister Motshekga went on to tell children that OR Tambo set the agenda for how we as a nation value our children when he told the international community that a nation that does not care about the wellbeing of its children has no future. Minister Motshekga committed the Department of Basic Education (DBE) to continue to work towards realising every child's full potential and thanked UNICEF for their continuous support for Departmental programmes and for fighting for the rights of children.



# Cuban partnership to improve quality learning and teaching in Mathematics and Science



“We have to use this partnership to improve quality learning and teaching in Mathematics and Science as the critical subjects within the education system. If we intend to recruit vibrant Mathematics teachers in the near future, more effort needs to be made to improve the teaching pedagogy of teachers in the gateway subjects, particularly those in the lower grades”.

Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, met with the Cuban Delegation at the Department of Basic Education (DBE) in Pretoria on 17 November 2017 to discuss progress on the implementation of the Co-operation Agreement between the DBE and Cuba in the field of education.

As part of the Agreement, ten Cuban Mathematics and Science Specialists assumed duty on 01 September 2017 and are based in the Mathematics, Science and Technology (MST) Directorate. These specialists have already begun work on teacher training and learner support material to assist in the improvement of Mathematics and Science results in schools, as well as engaging with Institutions of Higher Learning on addressing gaps and improving teacher training at universities. The specialists were presenting progress made thus far.

Dr Aaron Nkosi, Director for the Curriculum Research Directorate, mentioned that, “The team has a passion for education and are willing to collaborate with the DBE in improving quality and efficiency within the schooling system. This partnership will assist the DBE to meet the MST targets set in the *National Development Plan (NDP)* and the *DBE Action Plan 2019: Towards the Realisation of Schooling 2030*. As part of this initiative, we have designed a plan to work with the Cuban officials in improving effective implementation of MST in the country. The delegation’s focus is on teacher development and the capacitation of subject advisors. At present they are busy developing materials for Mathematics and Science to be used for teacher development in the country.”

Cuban Programme Co-ordinator, Ms Yadileydi Hernandez-Collot, expressed her gratitude on behalf of the delegation for the opportunity presented via the partnership with the Cuban Government to share best practice on educational aspects. “This programme will assist the DBE with the effective implementation of the MST Programme, especially in training educators and subject advisors in the gateway subjects. Our role is to equip teachers with the necessary skills needed in achieving quality learning and teaching in Mathematics and Science.” Ms Hernandez-Collot commended the DBE on the *Action Plan* containing clear targets and objectives that need to be achieved, adding, “More work needs to be done to reach its outlined targets,” Ms Hernandez-Collot said.



# World AIDS Day Commemoration takes place at Dikana High School in the KwaZulu-Natal Province



This year, the DBE will be commemorating World AIDS Day (WAD) on 28 November 2017 at the Dikana High School, Ulundi Local Municipality in the Zululand District, KwaZulu-Natal Province. The purpose of WAD is to raise awareness of the AIDS epidemic caused by the spread of HIV infection; to commemorate 2017 World AIDS Day in schools; to award schools that participated in the quilt project competition; and to provide health screening and sexual and reproductive health services to learners as part of effective implementation of the *DBE National Policy on HIV, STIs and TB* for learners, educators, support staff and district officials in all primary and secondary schools in the Basic Education Sector. The theme

identified for the 2017 WAD Commemoration is: *"My actions count! I will prevent HIV and TB in my lifetime"*.

Build-up activities for the event will include a competition on Grade 8 to 11 learners' views on the DBE's provision of comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) and access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services in school, in response to the *DBE National Policy on HIV, STIs and TB*. Learners will be required to make a quilt wherein they will express, in a form of writing, drawing or painting, or using a collage to depict their views on how the DBE can provide CSE and SRH in schools. The three schools that make the best quilts will be awarded with prizes by the various provinces. A message signed by Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, will be sent to all learners, educators, parents, caregivers and officials on the commemoration of WAD.

As part of the build-up activities and building on the success of the Integrated Care and Support Operation undertaken in the Northern Cape Province during September 2017, a parents dialogue for the support of CSE implementation was held on 22 November 2017, followed by an Employee Health and Wellness Day where health and wellness services will be provided to educators, principals, support staff and district officials on 24 November 2017, at Dikana High School. On the day of the main event, learners will also have access to health screening and sexual and reproductive health services.

## Public comment on the Draft Policy on Home Education invited



Home Education is a purposeful programme of education for a learner and an alternative to school attendance, which is provided under the direction and supervision of the learner's parent primarily in the environment of the learner's home. Home Education is recognised under section 51 of the *South African Schools Act, 84 of 1996 (SASA)*, as a lawful alternative to compulsory attendance to school. The provision of Home Education is guided by the *Policy for the Registration of Learners for Home Education* which was promulgated on 23 November 1999 (effective from January 2000), which sets out national norms and standards which apply uniformly across all Provincial Education Departments (PEDs).



The Draft Policy is a result of the Department's decision to review the 1999 Policy in order to address gaps which created inconsistencies in the implementation of the policy nationwide. The policy review comes immediately after the publication of the *Basic Education Laws Amendment (BELA) Bill* whereby the public was also asked to submit comments. Clause 25 of the Bill aims to strengthen the legislation on Home Education in alignment with the Policy.

Written comments on the draft reviewed *Policy on Home Education* can be sent through to the Deputy Director-General: Curriculum Policy, Support and Monitoring, Department of Basic Education, for attention: Ms Phindile Ngcobo: Address: 222 Struben Street, Pretoria 0002; Fax: 012 323 7749; or email: [ngcobo.p@dbe.gov.za](mailto:ngcobo.p@dbe.gov.za) by 08 December 2017.

The draft policy can be accessed at:

[www.education.gov.za](http://www.education.gov.za)

## The National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examination draws to a close



The writing of the National Senior Certificate (NSC) will be officially concluded on 28 November 2017 whilst marking processes are set to continue until 14 December 2017. The Director at National Assessments and Public Examinations, Ms Priscilla Ogunbanjo said: "After the marking process is completed, marks from the answer scripts are transferred onto the mark sheets. Examination Assistants (EAs), appointed mainly for quality assurance purposes, verify and check that the marks have been accurately transferred to the mark sheet, before the mark sheets are captured on the Integrated Examination Computer System (IECS). The capturing of marks will be concluded by 17 December 2017."

"In terms of the capturing process, all School Based Assessments (SBAs), oral marks, practical examination marks and written examination marks are subjected to a double capture process. This double capture process entails that every mark is captured independently by two separate individuals. A third official then verifies the captured mark before it is finally accepted onto the system," explained Ms Ogunbanjo.

"Umalusi adjustment decisions from the standardisation process are applied to each subject's data on the examination mark. SBA marks are also statistically moderated. The final examination mark and the SBA mark are then combined to obtain a final score for the subject. The final marks are verified and checked before statements of results are generated and printed for each candidate," added Ms Ogunbanjo.

The standardisation of results is a key process that precedes the release of results and ensures that a cohort of learners is not unduly advantaged or disadvantaged by undesirable fluctuations in the examination processes, and the system produces a relatively constant quality of output from one year to the next.

The entire process of the standardisation of results will be concluded by 23 December 2017. The Minister of Basic Education will release the 2017 NSC results on 04 January 2018 and PEDs will release results to schools on 05 January 2018. Candidates will therefore collect results from the schools/centres where they registered for the examination on 05 January 2018. Candidates who qualify for the supplementary examination need to register by no later than 19 January 2018. The supplementary examination will commence on 19 February 2018.

**Department of Basic Education honours 16 Days of  
Activism for No Violence against Women and children**

# 16 DAYS OF Activism

for no violence against Women and Children

countme in!  
together moving a non-violent  
South Africa forward

25 November – 10 December

Together we move South Africa forward



OR TAMBO.  
100 YEARS



The 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women (16 Days of Activism Campaign) is an international campaign originating from the first Women Global Leadership Institute sponsored by the Centre for Women's Global Leadership in 1999. The annual Campaign commences on 25 November 2017 with International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and ends on International Human Rights Day on 10 December. The co-ordination of the Campaign is being led by the Department of Women (DoW) to ensure that programmes are incorporated into Departmental plans. The objectives of the Campaign are to raise awareness levels and educate communities on the impact of violence against women, children and other vulnerable groups for the phenomenon to be eradicated from South African Society.

Deputy Director for the Social Cohesion and Equity in Education Directorate, Ms Dululu Hlatshaneni, said the following about the Campaign: "In support of the 16 Days of Activism Campaign, the DBE will be hosting an internal information session to engage DBE officials on issues around Gender-Based Violence (GBV). Various education stakeholders including GBV survivors, will be invited to share their story. This initiative will be followed by legal remedies to GBV, in the form of presentations on the *Domestic Violence Act* as well as the *Sexual Offences and Related Matters Amended Act (SORMAA)*, which will be presented by officials from the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DOJ&CD). Approximately 80 participants are expected to attend."

"Due to high sparks of sexual violence happening in schools, it will be relevant for parents to be empowered about information that relates to identifying signs of abuse to be knowledgeable of procedures to be followed when their children become victims of violence. Parents have a legal obligation to report GBV to relevant authorities should they suspect any form of abuse. The Directorate is working with the Legal Aid Board in the planning of these sessions. Three Districts in Gauteng Province will be targeted, namely, Tshwane West, Johannesburg South and Tshwane South, with approximately 50 parents represented in each district," Ms Hlatshaneni concluded.



Provincial Round-up

## Gauteng Province



In preparation for the 2018 academic year, the Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) recently launched the Textbooks and Tablet Retrieval Campaign. The purpose of the Campaign is to instil a sense of discipline and responsibility amongst learners regarding the adequate management and care of Departmental resources. The GDE is urging learners, who were issued with textbooks and tablets, to return them to schools after the last day of the examinations. Each school must label and return all devices, chargers and tablets along with the keyboard. Additionally, schools are required to submit the signed and updated Learner Tablet Asset Register clearly indicating the model, make and serial numbers of each device. The number of devices and chargers retrieved by each school will determine the number of devices and chargers that will be made available for redistribution to each respective school for the 2018 academic year roll-out, as additional tablet devices and chargers will not be provided. It is therefore imperative that all textbooks and tablets be returned to ensure readiness and access to quality education in the Province.

## Northern Cape Province



The Northern Cape Province MEC for Education, Ms Martha Bartlett, accompanied by stakeholders from the Department of Transport, Safety and Liaison and SAPS, have been embarking on unannounced visits to schools to ensure the safety of educators and learners within the Province. The MEC encouraged learners to foster mutual respect towards their fellow learners and teachers: “Societal challenges that manifest itself within our communities are negatively impacting the safety and wellbeing of our learners, especially during the festive season. Our learners fall prey to drug peddlers, abusive households, teenage pregnancy, alcoholics and gangsterism. All these societal ills are derailing the focus on their schoolwork, tarnishing their aspirations and dreams, and may lead to an early drop-out. We deem it necessary to have these engagements with learners at various schools to alert them on the dangers that await them outside the school premises. It is our plea, that every community member take hands in protecting our learners against all forms of abuse and social ills. As we approach the festive season, our learners will be vulnerable targets in our communities, and they will look up to us as parents and community members to protect them”.

# Upcoming Events

- 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
- 25 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 Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, 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
- 07 – 08 December 2017: Minister Angie Motshekga will be meeting with District Directors at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 10 – 14 December 2017: The South African Schools National Championships (Summer Games) to take place at the Tshwane University of Technology in Pretoria, Gauteng 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!