



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



NEWSLETTER

Director-General's visits to Marking Centres



One of the key processes in the National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examination is the organisation and marking of candidates' scripts after the writing of the examination. Marking reliability is essential to ensure that markers' application of the nationally agreed marking guidelines is accurate, consistent and fair to all candidates in a high stakes public examination such as the NSC.

The outcomes of this examination are used by candidates to gain entry to higher learning or to access other training or employment opportunities. The NSC outcomes are also used as indicators of teachers' and schools' performance at provincial and national levels, as well as to monitor examination standards over time.

Given the high importance of marking the learners' scripts, the Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, began his monitoring of Marking Centres throughout the country. The main purpose of the visits are to affirm the hard work of the officials and teachers at marking centres and to learn from his engagement with the relevant officials and teachers who are involved in the marking process to strengthen future marking processes.

In this week's *Thuto*, the Director-General's visits to the Gauteng and the Eastern Cape Provinces are featured:

<https://www.education.gov.za/Home/Director-General%E2%80%99svisitsstoMarkingCentres.aspx>



**Mgqumangwe Primary School offers state-of-the-art
education facilities**



The joy of the Nyabeni community in the Eastern Cape Province was clearly visible on 30 November 2017 when the Mqumangwe Primary School was officially handed over as part of the Accelerated Schools Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (ASIDI) Programme. The principal, teachers, School Governing Body (SGB) members and traditional leaders attended the event. “The Nyabeni community will safeguard the school to ensure the quality education of our children,” said the principal, Mr Mkhwenke.

Chief Siyoyo praised Government’s investment in the community: “There should be mutual respect between learners and teachers, and the community must continue to benefit from competent leadership”.

“I am motivated today and happy to receive this gift from the Basic Education Deputy Minister, Mr Enver Surty, and to shake his hand,” said Sinamnkele Msenga, a Grade 7 learner. “Government, and the DBE in particular, are very caring and remains dedicated to improve the education of South African learners,” said Soyilise Mlandela, a Grade 3 learner.

The school will assist in redressing the inequalities and creating an enabling environment for learning and teaching. The 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.

Adjudication process for 18th Annual National Teaching Awards finalised



The Annual National Teaching Awards (NTAs) were conceptualised and launched in 2000 by the late Professor Kader Asmal. Since its conception, the NTAs have become a popular way of recognising and awarding teachers who make a difference in learning in teaching. The NTA adjudication process took place at the OR Tambo Protea Hotel in the Gauteng Province from 29 November to 03 December 2017, with more than 90 candidates participating in the Annual Provincial Teaching Awards. The NTAs are used to encourage teachers to put an emphasis on the critical learning areas that still require improvement.

During the year, the best candidates are recognised for teaching excellence in various categories within the nine provinces, before the adjudication process culminates at national level when a panel of adjudicators is mandated to identify the top three winning candidates in each category.

The Director for the DBE’s Continuing Professional Development Directorate, Mr Philip Dikgomo, indicated: “The competition is very tight. I must honestly say that provinces continue to submit stronger candidates every year. During the adjudication, each candidate is given 35 minutes to present his/her case following a set of criteria.

Mr Elias Thibinyane from the Atlehang Secondary School in the Free State Province, said that, “the adjudication process was fair and well represented since various education stakeholders were involved, including education experts from the DBE, the South African Council for Educators (SACE), Teacher Unions and higher education representatives”. “The NTA is one of the ways in which the DBE publicly acknowledges and encourages dedicated and caring teachers in their efforts to develop learners into future leaders,” said Deputy Chief Education Specialist (DCES), Ms Gloria Disemelo.

The pioneer of the NTAs also has a category in his name, the Professor Kader Asmal Excellence Award. This award honours a person who made contributions at political and community levels. People who win this prestigious award are those who take a stand on social justice issues, such as racism, poverty, gender and disability. In addition to the Professor Kader Asmal Excellence Award, the NTAs also play a significant role in recognising and promoting excellence in various areas of teaching specialisation, through the following categories:

- Excellence in Primary School Teaching;
- Excellence in Secondary School Teaching;
- Excellence in Primary School Leadership;
- Excellence in Secondary School Leadership;
- Excellence in Grade R Teaching;
- Excellence in Special Needs and Inclusive Teaching;
- Excellence in Technology-Enhanced Teaching and Learning;
- Excellence in Teaching Mathematics (GET);
- Excellence in Teaching Natural Science (GET);
- Lifetime Achievement Award;

The national ceremony of the 18th Annual NTAs will be taking place on 17 February 2018, in the Gauteng Province where winners of the various categories will be announced.

DBE and the Department of Sport and Recreation South Africa to host 6th National School Sport Championships



The Department of Sport and Recreation South Africa, in partnership with the DBE, will host the National School Sport Championships, referred to as the Summer Games, at the Tshwane University of Technology in Pretoria, Gauteng Province from 10 to 14 December 2017.

Being hosted at a national level, the tournament targets thousands of learners from across all nine provinces. Apart from being utilised as a mechanism for promoting social cohesion, the summer games also provide learners with an opportunity to showcase their sporting talents whilst encouraging them to lead a healthy lifestyle.

The sporting codes include: basketball, cricket, goal-ball, gymnastics, kgati, morabaraba, rugby (7's), softball and table tennis. Approximately 2,376 athletes, 477 coaches, 261 managers and 369 technical officials, totalling 3,483 individuals will be participating in the Summer Games.

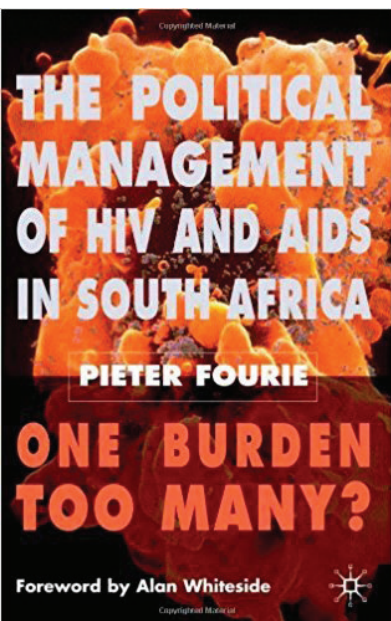
During this tournament all learners, will participate in sixteen priority codes and nine indigenous games. The *National Sport and Recreation Plan* was approved by Cabinet during April 2012. The first National School Sport Championships was subsequently hosted during December 2012, and 2017 will see the 6th National Schools Sport Championships bringing together school learners from across South Africa to compete in the games that take place during three seasons: the Autumn, the Winter and the Summer Games.



Information Resource Centre Review: “My actions count! I will prevent HIV and TB in my lifetime”.

World AIDS Day, which is commemorated on 01 December annually, is an opportunity for every community to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for people living with HIV and to remember those who have died. World AIDS Day is important as it reminds us that there is a need to increase awareness, fight prejudice and improve education to maintain and achieve the aims and objectives of the country as set out in the *National Strategic Plan on HIV, STIs and TB 2012-2016*. The national theme for WAD 2017 is **“My actions count! I will prevent HIV and TB in my lifetime”**. This is a rallying call for each one of us to be involved in the activities wherever we are. The time for talking is over; it is our actions that will deliver us to a HIV and TB free future as envisioned in the *National Development Plan (NPD)*.

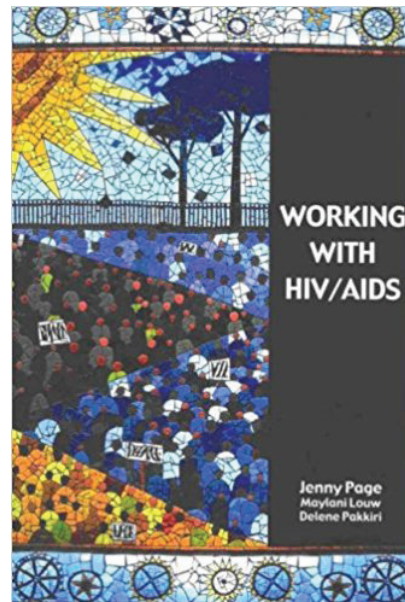
The Information Resource Centre (IRC) therefore focusses on the following books to create continued awareness about the issues of HIV and AIDS:



Author: Fourie, P

Dewey number: 362. 1969792 FOU

This book analyses successive governments' management (and mismanagement) of the AIDS epidemic in South Africa. The book covers the years 1982 to 2005, using expert thinking regarding public policy making to identify gaps in the public sector's handling of the epidemic. The book highlights critical lessons for policy makers and other public health managers.



Author/s: Page, J, Louw, M & Pakkiri, D

Dewey number: 362. 1969792 PAG

HIV/AIDS affects every walk of life, and has a profound influence on everything we do in our closest relationships, at work, at home, at school or at university. Not a day goes by without a reference to the pandemic in the newspapers or in the electronic media. This book addresses issues of HIV/AIDS, what it is, how it is spread, what can be done to avoid becoming HIV positive and how to live positively if you are infected. All these issues are discussed in the context of the workplace.

Safety tips for learners and parents during the holiday period



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National 2017 Festive Season

Road Safety Campaign Launch

Date: 05 December 2017

Time: 10:00 am

Venue: SUNFA Stadium, Bela Bela Township

The DBE's programmatic responses to school safety include, amongst others, training on the *National School Safety Framework* (NSSF), as well as the monitoring and support provided to schools on the NSSF implementation. A SAPS Partnership Protocol is also in place where schools are linked to police stations. Most schools have also established School Safety Committees with regular searches and seizures taking place. In respect of road safety, Scholar Patrol Teams are prevalent at schools to assist with road safety. However, the safety of our learners also remains a key concern during holiday periods. The Safety in Education Directorate shared the following safety tips to help learners to stay safe during this school holiday period:

- Stay away from alcohol and illegal substances. Illegal substances are addictive and lethal. Note that alcohol poisoning is also a common risk for learners during the holiday season;
- Food poisoning is another potential holiday hazard. Practice food safety by washing hands, utensils and dishes, before and after use;
- When cooking during the holiday season, be careful of burns and scalding;
- Be careful when using kitchen appliances like kettles, toasters and microwaves without adult supervision;
- Social media can be a dangerous space when not used responsibly; therefore use social media carefully;
- Do not bully others or participate in bullying incidents by being a bystander;
- When travelling in a vehicle, ensure that you use a safety belt. Pedestrians should always be alert, especially when crossing the road at intersections;
- Do not use your head phones or cellphone when walking in the streets; and
- For those who will be travelling during the holiday season, please remain vigilant to reach your destination safely. You can avoid road accidents and injuries by obeying the rules of the road;

Parents should take responsibility to safeguard their children during the holiday period. A parent is their child's *first* teacher and should remain their *best* teacher throughout life:

- Make sure your children are in a safe, controlled environment while you are at work, such as an aftercare, a reputable holiday club, or in the care of a responsible caregiver or family member;
- Teach your children how to operate your alarm system. When you test your alarm, let them press the panic button to familiarise themselves with the process, so they will know exactly what to do in an emergency;
- Make sure your children keep all the doors locked and windows closed if they are going to be home alone. Always instruct them to not allow anyone to enter the property without permission;
- Make sure that dangerous substances and hazardous items, medicines and cleaning agents are out of reach, and that all electrical wiring is safely covered;
- Ensure swimming pools are sealed off, especially if you have toddlers, with a SABS-approved safety fence and net. If you have older children that are skilled at swimming, make sure they understand the safety concerns and lay down ground rules;
- Save important emergency contact numbers on your children's phones. Also keep a printed list of these numbers close - on your fridge or next to the landline, including those of your local SAPS station and your neighbours; and
- Ensure that parents and family members always know your whereabouts, and teach children to avoid the company of strangers.

The DBE wishes you and your family a safe and educational festive season – do not forget to read a book or two this holiday!

Provincial Round-up

Eastern Cape



The Eastern Cape Provincial Education Department (ECDoE) inducted the newly elected District Education Forum (DEF) in Port Alfred on 01 December 2017 to empower them on issues relating to their operations in respect of District Management, and how to perform their duties during their three year term of office. Addressing the first induction session, ECDoE Superintendent General, Mr Themba Kojana, emphasised that the DEF's main mission is to achieve quality public education. "We can only achieve this mission if all parties play their part: The Department must supply and utilise teachers who are highly qualified in order to produce excellent results in the Province, while the DEF must provide the necessary leadership to guide other societal institutions interested in contributing towards the realisation of these goals". A critical issue that is adversely affecting the delivery of quality public education in the Province includes less contact time between the learner and educator due to teacher absenteeism. Also in attendance was MEC Mandla Makupulawho, who outlined the acceptable levels of performance which are used to measure education standards in managing successful partnerships with stakeholders.

Gauteng



The Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) has moved to new premises. The 111 Commissioner Street building has been synonymous with the GDE for the past 20 years. The GDE has now moved to four buildings in the Johannesburg city centre. Members of the public have been advised that some of the services have been separated and will be offered at the following four sites:

17 Simmonds Street

One of the department's new homes will be 17 Simmonds Street. At this building, all general information relating to the department's services will be available. Suppliers will also be assisted with queries relating to payment and general supply chain management information at this new location.

30 Loveday Street

The Examination Centre is now located at 30 Loveday Street. Statements of results and applications for a combination certificate will be processed at this venue.

26 Loveday Street

For Human Resources based administration such as recruitment and selection, members of the public must visit 26 Loveday Street.

55 Fox Street

For information relating to the Gauteng City Region Academy (GCRA), internships, learnerships, job centre and bursaries, citizens will have to make their way to Fox Street.

The placements and admissions of public ordinary schools will also be done here.

The switchboard number is (011) 355 0000, and the Call Centre number is 0800 000 789.

The email address is: gdeinfo@gauteng.gov.za.

Upcoming Events

- 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 Mwel, will be monitoring Marking Centres in the various provinces
- 07 – 08 December 2017: Minister Angie Motshekga will be meeting with District Directors at the Saint George's Hotel and Conference Centre, Irene, Gauteng Province
- 10 – 14 December 2017: The South African School 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!