



basic education

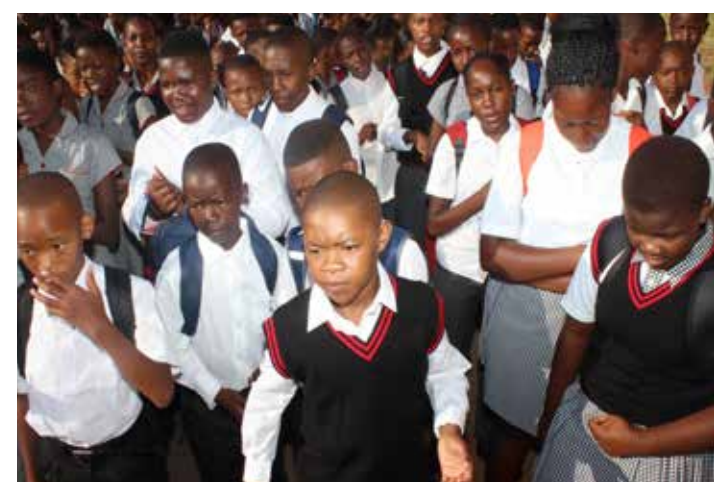
Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



NEWSLETTER

Minister Motshekga visits schools in the North West Province



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, accompanied by the North West MEC for Education, Mr Sello Lehari and senior government officials, visited schools in the North West Province on 17 January 2018. These visits formed part of the Department's School Readiness Oversight and Monitoring Visits Programme. Minister Motshekga used the opportunity to congratulate schools that performed well during the 2017 National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examinations and to encourage underperforming schools to "up their grades". The Minister also interacted with education stakeholders in the Madibeng Sub District to discuss initiatives to improve school safety and effective school governance.

The programme commenced at Hebron Technical High School where Minister Motshekga met with School Management Members. The school obtained a 55,2% pass rate in the 2017 NSC Examinations, the lowest in the Sub District. These results affected the position of the Sub District in the Bojanala District rankings. "The improvement of quality education remains one of the core objectives of the education sector; we are visiting the Province today to encourage teachers to keep up the good work. We need to work together to elevate the standard of quality learning and teaching in all our technical schools to ensure that these schools function optimally," mentioned Minister Motshekga.

"Every education stakeholder should make a direct contribution in addressing bullying, school safety and community protests. Learners should attend school in an environment that is conducive to learning," said Minister Motshekga.

Minister Motshekga then proceeded to Machadam Farm School in Mooi Nooi where best practices were shared. The school has been obtaining a 100% pass rate since 2016. Madikete High School in Maboloka obtained an 82,5% pass rate in the 2017 NSC Examinations. The Minister commended the school for having performed above 80% and encouraged the community members and the School Governing Body (SGB) members to partner with teachers to achieve a 100% pass rate in the 2018 academic year.

The Minister ended the Programme at Letlhabile Community Hall where she engaged with various education stakeholders on the state of readiness for the upcoming SGB elections, which will be taking place during March 2018.



Minister Motshekga meets with French Ambassador



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, met with the Ambassador of France to South Africa, Mr Christophe Farnaud, on 15 January 2018 at the Department of Basic Education (DBE) in Pretoria to discuss the enrichment of the current partnership between the two parties. The official signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the DBE and the French Embassy took place on 25 April 2016. The existing collaboration includes the promotion of the French Language in South African schools, as well as nutritional education through the *So Chef!* food preparation programme that takes place during National Nutrition Week with workshops organised in schools and universities. The DBE recently welcomed Ms Pauline Durand, the new French Language Advisor, who will be supporting the DBE in the promotion of the French Language in South African Schools.

The Embassy of France organised a study tour to France for a DBE delegation to look into both vocational education and training; and the training and appointment of school principals. The study tour was led by Dr Mamiki Maboya, the Deputy Director-General for Curriculum Policy, Support and Monitoring during the second week of October 2017. The visit included meetings with officials from French Education organisations, vocational education and training schools focused on the motor, aviation, and catering fields, the Foundation for Science and Technology, and a training institute for teachers, principals, and education managers.

The DBE has proposed for the existing partnership to be expanded to include co-operation in the fields of vocational education and training, as well as the exchange of technical expertise on school management. Other fields include the reinforcement of the teaching of the French language; teachers training for an innovative approach to science teaching; exchange of information and expertise on skills and qualifications at local campuses; exchange of information and expertise on the inclusion of students with special needs in the vocational education stream; and the exchange of information and expertise for the development of curriculum. In this regard the DBE and its French Counterparts are negotiating a new MoU. It is envisaged that the agreement will be signed by April 2018.

The parties also agreed to implement an innovative science teaching partnership with the *La main à la pâte* (LAMAP) Foundation, which aims at improving the quality of science and technology teaching in primary and middle schools. The Foundation's activities are carried out within France and internationally, providing assistance and professional development for teachers.



Deputy Minister Surty visits schools in Gauteng and North West Provinces



Deputy Minister of Basic Education, Mr Mohamed Enver Surty, officially opened a Multimedia Centre at the MC Kharbai School for Learners with Special Education Needs (LSEN), sponsored by the MTN SA Foundation, on 17 January 2018 in Lenasia, Gauteng Province. The visit forms part of the Department's School Readiness and Oversight and Monitoring Visits Programme to assess the state of readiness of schools across the country.

The event was made possible by a partnership with the MTN Foundation, the Universal Service and Access Agency of South Africa (USAASA) initiative for Special Needs schools and the Gauteng Department of Education. The MTN SA Foundation has a long-standing partnership with the Provincial Departments of Education (PEDs) in all nine provinces through its mandate of providing Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to public schools. Another aim is to broaden access to digital learning through continued support to schools where the Foundation has established Multimedia Centres.

The partnership saw over 2,500 pairs of school shoes and 70 bicycles delivered to disadvantaged learners in the Northern Cape, the Western Cape, Gauteng and the Eastern Cape Provinces. The MTN Foundation further intends to deliver additional bicycles and shoes to learners in remote areas.

"I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the General Manager of the MTN Foundation, Ms Kusile Mtunzi-Hairwadzi, for showing enthusiasm and keen interest in donating computers, printers, projectors and file servers to the MC Kharbai School for the deaf," said Deputy Minister Surty.

MC Kharbai School for the Deaf is an English and South African Sign Language medium school for hearing impaired learners. Owing to the Multimedia Centre, the school now enables learners to have access to technology, promote literacy of print media and assist with South African Sign Language.

Deputy Minister Surty also visited Fields College and Leruthware Primary School in Rustenburg, North West Province on 18 January 2018 as part of the Programme. Addressing education stakeholders at Fields College, Deputy Minister Surty, said: "School communities need to collaborate to improve quality learning and teaching in the lower grades. Another area that requires special attention is the improvement of the teaching pedagogy of African Indigenous languages". The Deputy Minister advised teachers to ensure that fundamental skills such as reading, writing and numeracy, especially in the language of learning and teaching, are not compromised.



Eight National School Moot Court Competition learners set for The Hague



On 16 January 2018, Basic Education Deputy Minister, Mr Enver Surty, addressed the champions of the 2017 South African Schools Moot Court Competition who recently qualified to compete with their global counterparts during the International Moot Court Competition to be held at The Hague in the Netherlands from 22 to 27 January 2018.

A team of eight learners met in Pretoria for a four day training workshop aimed at equipping them with critical legal skills focusing on Cultural and Religious Rights. The workshop took place at the National Department from 16 to 19 January 2018. These learners will depart for The Hague on 20 January 2018 where the fourth International Moot Court Competition will be held. The 2018 elimination rounds will commence at Leiden University Campus on 22 January 2018. The semi-finals will then proceed to the Peace Palace on 26 January 2018, where the official announcement of the winners will be made. The proceedings will be presided over by Constitutional Court Judges.

Chief Education Specialist for the Social Cohesion and Equity in Education Directorate, Mrs Malebo Lefoka, said that, “The Competition plays a vital role in exposing learners to the *Constitution* as the Supreme Law of the Land. The Competition further provides learners with an opportunity for exposure to international laws and treaties such as the *Rome Statue* and the *International Convention on Children’s Rights*. The Competition further provides learners with a platform to practice values that are embedded within the National School Curriculum and presented in subjects such as Life Orientation and Social Sciences, where learners are taught the fundamental concepts of democracy, constitutional values, human rights and responsibilities”.

Deputy Minister Surty congratulated the learners and encouraged them to prepare thoroughly to make South Africa proud. Deputy Minister Surty also acknowledged the contributions from the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, the University of Pretoria and the University of Venda for their continued support.

Team South Africa will be represented by Qhayiya Mayinje and Kian Terwin from Beacon Hurst High School in the Eastern Cape Province, Sibulele Mbambi and Athenkosi Mthiya from Holy Cross School in the Eastern Cape Province, Vuyolwethu Ngobese and Philasande Mdletshe from Dundee High School in the KwaZulu-Natal Province and Mashudu Mandaha and Adivhaho Mudanalwo from Mphaphuli Secondary School in the Limpopo Province for having reached this level of the Competition. The Department wishes them all the best!

Education experts from the African continent converge to discuss issues around sexuality education



Basic Education Deputy Director-General for the Social Mobilisation and Support Services Branch, Dr Granville Whittle, attended a High Level Policy Dialogue held in Pretoria on 13 January 2018, facilitated by UNESCO. The Dialogue, which saw more than 100 education experts from across the African continent converging, was aimed at identifying critical mechanisms that various Member States of the Eastern and Southern Africa Region require to contextualise sexuality education as a critical component of quality basic education.

The main objective of sexuality education is to equip young people with the necessary knowledge, skills, attitudes and values to ensure their well-being and dignity, and to develop healthy social and sexual relationships. The core concept that brought these political leaders and senior government officials together, was the promotion of a collective approach to Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) to empower the youth to make informed choices to live healthy lifestyles, and to realise their full potential.

The dialogue, which was led by a panel of international experts from across the globe, deliberated practices that render African youth vulnerable to HIV, teenage pregnancy, and other social ills. Child marriages, a lack of parental involvement in sexuality education, exposure to social media content and the ineffectiveness of the Life Orientation subject within the education system, were viewed as the most contributing factors towards misconceptions about sexuality education.

In his address, Dr Whittle mentioned that the DBE has been presenting sexuality education in schools through Life Orientation since 2000. However, the teaching pedagogy of the subject still needs to be strengthened to influence young people's behaviour in respect of sexuality. "Teachers, particularly those who teach Life Orientation as a subject, still need to be upskilled to teach sexuality education better," adding that the DBE will, from this year onward, collaborate with the Department of Health to deliver sexual and reproductive health services to high schools in the country. In addition, Government has taken a decision to distribute both female and male condoms to high schools in 2018, to equip young people with necessary resources to lead healthy lives.

For further information about CSE, please click on the below link:

<https://www.education.gov.za/Programmes/HealthPromotion/tabid/672/Default.aspx>

Department encourages parents to be more “hands-on” in their children’s academic programme during 2018



“Parental involvement in their children’s academic programme from the beginning of the year will help the basic education sector to achieve positive learning outcomes,” said Mr James Ndlebe, the Director for Basic Education’s Education Management and Governance Directorate. Mr Ndlebe explained that, “Parents and schools need to work together to educate their children, helping them to develop into young adults who are confident, successful and are able to contribute to the economic growth of the country. Parents, regardless of income, race, ethnicity or religion, must become involved in their children’s education. When parents are actively involved, teaching and learning can be optimised. Parents can support their children’s learning at home throughout the school year by:

- Teaching their children discipline and routine;
- Developing a partnership with their children’s teachers, school staff and management;
- Understanding their children’s academic demands;
- Becoming involved with their children’s school;
- Developing a positive relationship with their children;
- Assigning tasks to children to teach them responsibility; these tasks should include tidying-up and caring for their possessions;
- Encouraging their children to respect teachers and display acceptable and appropriate behaviour at all times;
- Monitoring their children’s study time table and homework;
- Ensuring that their children have a daily routine for waking up and going to sleep; and
- Monitoring their children’s school attendance.

“Homes are environments where children learn, grow and develop their potential. Research indicates that when the family becomes more involved in a child’s activities, learning improves. By showing interest in the child’s education, parents influence their children to see education as a priority. Parents therefore need to be positive role models for their children to develop positive opinions and attitudes about learning. Children need their parents’ support and supervision, regardless of whether their parents are educated or not, as it is the emotional and psychological support that adds value,” Mr Ndlebe concluded.

Provincial Round-up

Limpopo Province



LIMPOPO
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DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

Pupils at Basopa High School in Mhinga Village, Limpopo Province, are “going digital” in 2018. Department of Communications Minister, Ms Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane, donated 15 computers, a television and a set-top box (STB) to the school. The donation forms part of the Minister’s digital migration programme which aims to move the country from analogue to digital signal. Basopa High School has an intake of over 1209 learners. In 2017, the school obtained a matric pass rate of 82.9% and of those learners, 33 managed to obtain bachelor passes. The school received a 100% pass rate in Xitsonga, a 90.9% pass rate in Mathematics and Physical Science, and is one of the top performing schools in the Vhembe District. The 15 computers were sponsored by Vodacom and Mustek. Pupils in the Masedibu Secondary School in Seshego, Polokwane, also received 15 new computers, a TV and a set-top box. The Minister’s hand-over forms part of her Back to School Campaign which aims to motivate learners to remain in school.



Members of the Gauteng Provincial Legislature (GPL) embarked on a School Readiness Programme from 17 to 19 January 2018 to assess issues such as registration, teaching and the state of readiness in schools. The GPL visited 15 secondary schools in the Tshwane region education district as part of the institution's School Readiness Programme for the 2018 academic year. The initiative forms part of the legislature's oversight mandate over the work of the executive authority in the Province. Towards the end of 2017, the Gauteng Department of Education's (GDE's) executive authority outlined the department's financial situation underpinning several constraints. Presiding officers also used this initiative to donate valuable educational support materials to the schools such as school shoes, uniforms and groceries. Parents and learners were also informed about the mandate of the legislature and the role of parents in providing support and strengthening the education system.

Eastern Cape Province



The Eastern Cape Department of Education (ECDOE) has established four Provincial Teacher Development Institutes (PTDIs) to improve the quality of teacher development programmes in the Province. During the first term of 2018, the four PTDIs will offer Teacher Development programmes. These include: Key Content in Mathematics for Grade 12 teachers of Mathematics; Key Content in Physical Science for Grade 12 teachers of Physical Science; Grade 10 Literature Study for Languages: English First Additional Language and isiXhosa Home Language; and eSkills for Principals falling within the beginner category regarding the use of a computer. The course outline includes word processing, working with spread sheets, enhancing spreadsheets with objects, creating and enhancing a presentation, Internet and web browsers an using and managing email.

Upcoming Events

- 22 – 24 January 2018: A Basic Education Sector Lekgotla is scheduled to take place at the Saint George Hotel and Conference Centre, Irene in the Gauteng Province
- 31 January 2018: Closing date for the registration of the 2018 Senior Certificate (amended) Examinations
- 01 February 2018: World Read Aloud Day (WRAD) will be hosted at Mofolo Park, Soweto in the Gauteng Province
- 17 February 2018: The national ceremony of the 18th Annual National Teaching Awards (NTAs) will be taking place at the 5th Floor Pavilion, Sandton Convention Centre, Sandton, Gauteng Province
- 01 – 31 March 2018: School Governing Body (SGB) Elections



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