



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



NEWSLETTER

18th Annual National Teaching Awards set to honour the nation's top teachers



18TH ANNUAL NATIONAL TEACHING AWARDS

"Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world." - Nelson Mandela

SANDTON CONVENTION CENTRE

17 FEBRUARY 2018



The DBE will honour the selfless contributions of the nation’s most dedicated teachers at the Sandton Convention Centre on 17 February 2018 during the 18th National Teaching Awards (NTAs).

Through the NTAs, which were conceptualised and launched in 2000, the Department recognises and promotes the extraordinary efforts of top teachers whilst promoting and saluting excellence in the teaching profession, often achieved under very difficult conditions and in service to learners from underprivileged families and economically depressed communities, on an annual basis.

The NTA event is one of the ways in which the DBE can publicly acknowledge and encourage dedicated and caring teachers in their efforts to develop each learner into South Africa’s leaders of the future. These awards also provide the perfect opportunity to celebrate the heroes of the profession that gives birth to all other professions.

The 18th National Teaching Awards will recognise outstanding teaching and leadership in the following categories and awards:

- 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 Teaching;
- Excellence in Technology Enhanced Teaching and Learning;
- Excellence in Teaching Mathematics;
- Excellence in Teaching Natural Science;
- The Nelson Mandela Lifetime Achievement Award; and
- The Professor Kader Asmal Award.

The theme of this year’s NTAs: “Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world,” forms part of the Nelson Mandela Centenary Celebrations. In honour of Madiba, National Government, Industry and the Nelson Mandela Foundation will host a number of events to continue his legacy around the future, we as South Africans, seek to build. The values and dedicated service that these dedicated teachers stand for, represent the dream that Mandela stood for. They carry the flame of renewed hope for a brighter future for our learners as we return to the example set by Nelson Mandela.

Invitation to comment on draft Policy on Rural Education



The Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga, has published her intention to amend the draft *Policy on Rural Education*. In view of this, the Minister invites stakeholder bodies, interested parties and members of the public to submit written comments on the draft amended policy document by 31 March 2018.

The draft *Policy on Rural Education* aims to improve access to education, as well as the quality of education for rural schools. Although a number of pro-poor initiatives aimed at promoting equity, and improving the quality of education in previously disadvantaged and rural schools, have been implemented, a large number of rural schools are still characterised by inadequate resources, teacher shortages, absenteeism and high learner dropout rates.

The draft Policy views rurality as a driver of educational reform, and not a follower of urban agendas and priorities. Therefore, curriculum development, provisioning, resourcing and subject choice for rural schools should be guided by key principles which should be incorporated in the implementation of curriculum in rural schools.

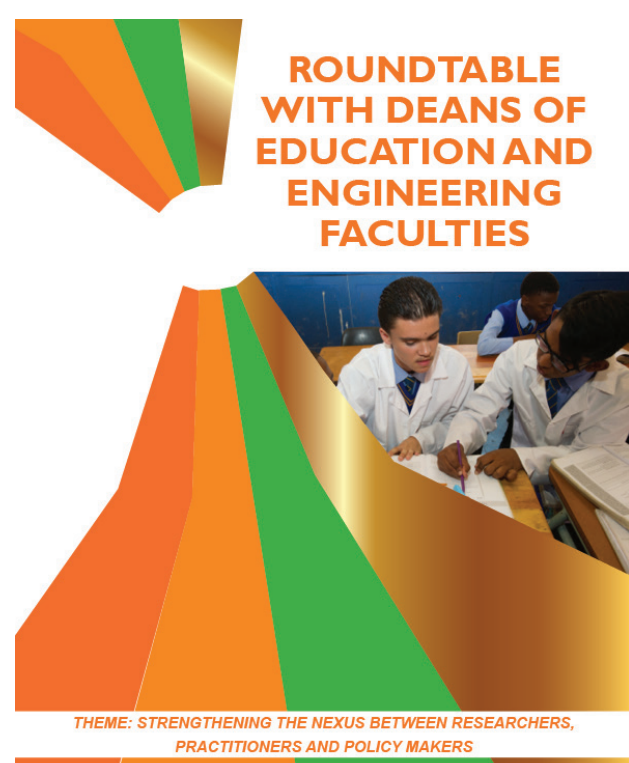
Since Agriculture is a key economic sector in South Africa, Agricultural education can play a role in responding to the changing labour markets and environmental challenges through providing an inclusive and responsive curriculum.

Comments should indicate the name and detailed contact information of the person or organisation submitting them, and should be directed to: The Director-General, Department of Basic Education, Private Bag X895, Pretoria, 0001, for attention: Dr PN Langa, fax: 012 3211213, email: langa.p@dbe.gov.za

Click on the below link to view the draft *Policy on Rural Education*:

<https://www.education.gov.za/Resources/Legislation/CallforComments/CallforcommentsonRuralEducationDraftPolicy.aspx>

Roundtable Discussion with Deans of Education and Engineering Faculties planned



The 21st Century learner requires a specific set of knowledge and skills to tackle the Fourth Industrial Revolution head-on. For this reason, a Basic Education Sector Lekgotla was held at the Saint George Hotel and Conference Centre from 22 to 24 January 2018, to ensure that the contemporary learner is equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills for a changing world in support of quality education in line with the *National Development Plan* (NDP) 2030 vision and objectives.

Following the Lekgotla, a Roundtable Discussion, chaired by Basic Education Deputy Minister, Mr Enver Surty, is scheduled to take place on 20 February 2018 at the Department of Basic Education (DBE) in Pretoria under the theme: *Strengthening the nexus between researchers, practitioners and policy makers*. The Roundtable Discussions will include two commissions that will deliberate on Mathematics, Science and Technology and Languages (Commission 1) and Skills for a Changing World (Commission 2).

On 26 January 2018, the National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT) convened a breakfast meeting with researchers and Deans of Education to discuss the role that education faculties at universities could play to improve the research and scholarly stewardship in the education sector. As a follow-up to the breakfast meeting, the DBE requested a Roundtable Discussion with key partners in academic institutions, including sister departments, teacher unions, and provincial officials responsible for Engineering, Mathematics, Science and Technology (MST), Languages, Curriculum, Teacher Development and other critical stakeholders.

The future competencies and the curriculum should include lifelong learning; entrepreneurship, problem-solving, innovation, accountability and self-management. During the Fourth Industrial Revolution based on the use of cyber-physical systems, learners and teachers should focus on their transformation into global citizens. The focus of teaching and learning must shift to Entrepreneurship Education to develop innovative, independent learners who will become competent employers and employees.

Director-General's 2018 Provincial Engagements



2018 has been declared the year to celebrate the centenary of the first president of South Africa's democracy, Dr Nelson Mandela. The DBE has been a privileged recipient of Dr Mandela's great wisdom. His famous saying, "*Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world,*" continues to define our work in the Department.

In unpacking the above quotation, in the context of the Department's mandate, it becomes clear that if education is to change the world for most South Africans, it has to be of a high quality and relevant to the needs of the country. The Director-General's initiative of engaging key education officials and school principals from the nine provinces is hailed as an important game changer in motivating, supporting and giving oversight to provinces, districts and schools. These 30 engagements scheduled for the first half of the year, is geared towards improving learning outcomes that will ultimately offer learners the opportunity to change their life chances through securing good passes in Grade 12, entering higher education and other training institutions and thereby improving their employability. Education is truly that weapon to bring about change.



All systems go for Basic Education in the new academic year



The DBE presented a detailed briefing to the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education in Parliament on the start of the 2018 school year on 13 February 2018. Basic Education Deputy Director-General for Planning, Delivery and Oversight, Mrs Palesa Tyobeka, informed the Portfolio Committee that school readiness in the system has improved significantly. Onsite DBE monitoring was organised to complement provincial and district monitoring processes to ensure that, collectively, the sector covered as many schools as possible.

The areas that had improved included learner admissions and registrations ahead of the new year; the timeous provision of Learner Teacher Support Material (LTSM); ensuring the availability of teachers for each class and each subject at all levels of the system; as well as school improvement plans.

Most provinces have managed to drastically reduce the number of unadmitted learners. The total number of learners still not admitted to schools across all nine provinces stands at 7,457 with the majority of those being in the Western Cape Province which still hasn't placed 4,660 learners. The Gauteng Province managed to place most of its learners, with only 499 still in need of placement. All provinces have given assurances that all learners will be placed by the end of February 2018.

Regarding LTSM provisioning, the committee welcomed the report that the majority of schools (98%) had received DBE workbooks for all grades. All provinces showed significant improvement in the provisioning of textbooks compared to previous years. Shortages that were found are mostly at secondary school level, but are being addressed. With regards to stationery, 91.1% (659 out of 723) of schools had received their orders. In eight of the nine provinces, less than 10% of schools reported challenges with the delivery of stationery. However, in the Eastern Cape Province, 23% (21 out of 89) schools monitored had not received their orders.

The Eastern Cape Province commenced delivery in November 2017 and textbooks for all schools were dispatched by 30 January 2018. All schools that ordered centrally had received their stationery orders. The delay is in Section 21 schools that ordered themselves or where parents are required to purchase. Over 83% of the schools monitored had an LTSM inventory and textbook retrieval policy. Districts have begun to focus on supporting schools on the effective implementation of the policies to ensure maximum retrieval.

The Department will continue to monitor progress in schools across the country to provide support where necessary.

NEEDU Policy Briefs share best practices about *Schools that Work*

Why do certain schools work and others struggle to produce quality learning outcomes? The National Education Evaluation and Development Unit (NEEDU) *Schools that Work II – Lessons from the Ground* report was initially presented during a Roundtable Discussion at the University of Pretoria on 11 July 2017. The report looked at 111 schools from across the system for an in-depth analysis into the inner workings of the top echelon of the South African Education system. To ensure that the 2017 sample was representative of the best schools in the system, all schools were first categorised by province and quintile, and were then ranked using set performance markers.

The *Schools that Work II* study findings will be presented in a series of condensed, accessible and easily digestible format in the form of policy briefs. These policy briefs will be published during the first semester of 2018. The purpose of these thematic briefs is to raise awareness of different issues; to provide clear takeaway messages from research findings; and to provide evidence-informed best practices and possible solutions to challenges that schools are generally grappling with.

By far, the most common characteristic of high-performing schools is the effective use of teaching time. The first policy brief focuses on *Time-on-Task: Maximising student learning time and minimising downtime*. The centrality of learning time lies in the fact that if it is not managed effectively, it has a negative impact on learner proficiency owing to reduced learning opportunities. Managing teaching time tightly to make every minute count is a prevalent practice in all high-performing schools or *schools that work*.

Policy briefs are available on the following link: <https://www.education.gov.za/NEEDUPolicybriefsseries.aspx>

Provincial Round-up

Gauteng Province



The Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) has called on parents to actively engage in their children's future by participating in the 2018 School Governing Body (SGB) Elections. Gauteng Education MEC, Mr Panyaza Lesufi, encouraged participation: "Your role as a parent, regardless of your race or background, is critical because it will assist the Department to improve learning outcomes and enable us to reach the goal of providing quality education in all our schools". The role of an SGB is to support the principal with issues of financial administration, the maintenance of the school and recommendations of the appointment of staff. Under the theme, *Be active, be principled, vote wisely – njalo*, the Department seeks to mobilise parents and civil society to become involved in the education of our children. The Department will host SGB Election District Dialogues from 13 to 28 February 2018, to create awareness. Elections for the incoming SGB will take place from 01 to 31 March 2018, in all schools. This will be the ninth cycle of SGB Elections since 1994. They are the third largest elections after the national, provincial and local government elections.

Western Cape Province



More than 6,700 candidates have registered to write the Supplementary Examinations for the National Senior Certificate (NSC) from 19 February to 03 March 2018 in the Western Cape Province. The Western Cape Education Department (WCED) has created a special web site to help candidates prepare for the examinations. The WCED is also broadcasting lessons via satellite on selected subjects and topics to 132 schools across the Province. The broadcasts form part of the Telematics Programme, in collaboration with the University of Stellenbosch. The web site includes the timetable for the supplementary examinations, exemplar papers, past papers and marking memos, study guides, order forms for recordings of Telematics lessons, and links to online videos on selected subjects. The WCED's Telematics centres will provide lessons for supplementary candidates in February and March. The lessons will cover selected topics in seven subjects, alternating between English and Afrikaans. The subjects are Business Studies, Geography, History, Mathematics, Accounting, Life Sciences and Physical Sciences.

Upcoming Events

- 13 – 19 February 2018: Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mwel, will be embarking on his Provincial Engagement Programme to the Eastern Cape Province
- 20 February 2018: Basic Education Deputy Minister, Mr Enver Surty, will be chairing the Roundtable Discussions with Deans of Education and Engineering Faculties at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 21 – 23 February 2018: Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mwel, will be embarking on his Provincial Engagement Programme to the Free State Province
- 22 – 23 February 2018: Minister Angie Motshekga will be hosting her first quarter meeting with District Directors at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 26 – 28 February 2018: Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mwel, will be embarking on his Provincial Engagement Programme to the Northern Cape Province
- 28 February – 01 March 2018: A National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) Forum will be taking place at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 01 – 31 March 2018: School Governing Body (SGB) Elections
- 15 March 2018: A Lunchbox Lekgotla seminar will be taking place at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 19 April 2018: A Lunchbox Lekgotla seminar will be taking place at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 17 May 2018: A Lunchbox Lekgotla seminar will be taking place at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 21 June 2018: A Lunchbox Lekgotla seminar will be taking place at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province

- 28 – 29 June 2018: Minister Angie Motshekga will be hosting her second quarter meeting with District Directors at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 19 July 2018: A Lunchbox Lekgotla seminar will be taking place at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 16 August 2018: A Lunchbox Lekgotla seminar will be taking place at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 20 September 2018: A Lunchbox Lekgotla seminar will be taking place at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 20 – 21 September 2018: Minister Angie Motshekga will be hosting her third quarter meeting with District Directors at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 06 – 07 December 2018: Minister Angie Motshekga will be hosting her fourth quarter meeting with District Directors at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province



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

OUR FUTURE, MAKE IT WORK!