



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



NEWSLETTER

Minister Motshekga addresses Education District Directors to improve quality education



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, hosted the first quarterly meeting for 2018 with District Directors at the Department of Basic Education (DBE) in Pretoria from 22 to 23 February 2018, to plan for the new academic year. The meeting focussed on critical aspects that need to be accelerated to confront challenges and inefficiencies within the education sector head on to assist schools to obtain quality passes.

“As District Directors’ you are at the coalface of basic education delivery, hence you deserve a pat on the back for a job well done. We all know that it is through joint effort that more can be achieved. We want to make sure that we connect with you, as the pulse of the education system, from across all corners of our country. It is important that we reflect honestly and openly how we have fared in 2017 as “Team Education” in pursuit of our goal of improving the achievement of learning outcomes. It is once again that time of the year when all of us are consolidating our plans and interventions for 2018 in the areas we did not do so well in last year. One of the things we will look at more closely as a sector and one of the focal points of the Department’s Provincial Monitoring and Support Visits will be: ensuring wall-to-wall curriculum coverage; support for progressed learners; and the tracking of learner performance throughout the year,” said Minister Motshekga in her address.

The Minister further called upon District Directors to refocus the education sector towards the effective implementation of technology in classroom context to prepare learners for the Fourth Industrial Revolution and to create “classrooms of the 21st Century”. “The progress we are seeing in the Gauteng and the Western Cape Provinces, vis-à-vis the modernisation of the classroom, with the Eastern Cape and Free State Provinces following suit, is encouraging,” added the Minister.

Deputy Director-General for Planning and Delivery Oversight, Mrs Palesa Tyobeka, said that, “We should be thrilled as the sector to observe a trend of improved performance of the education Districts across the country, particularly those that used to perform below the 50% threshold. During 2017, the majority of our Districts did quite well. The National Senior Certificate (NSC) results have proven that our collective efforts, through these meetings, have a huge impact on improving school functionality and learner performance in this country”.

The need to fast-track progress made by the DBE in terms of achieving priority goals set out in the *Action Plan to 2019: Towards the Realisation of Schooling 2030* was highlighted during the meeting. Goals 5 and 6 of the *Action Plan*, mandate the sector to increase the number of Grade 12 learners who pass Mathematics and Physical Science. Two important goals which were highlighted, Goal 7 and 8 of the *Action Plan*, is the *Improvement of the average performance of Grade 6 learners in Languages and Mathematics*.

Reflective analysis and key sector development presentations were made by various senior managers from the Department. The Acting Chief Director for National Assessment and Public Examinations, Ms Priscilla Ogunbanjo, congratulated the KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape and Limpopo Provinces for having improved their 2017 NSC Examinations results and indicated that schools need to monitor learner enrolment in commercial subjects such as Accounting, Business Studies and Economics to afford them with an opportunity to participate in the growth of the economy of South Africa. “There has been a drop of learner enrolment in Mathematics Literacy and this indicates that more learners are choosing Mathematics in their career pathing.”

Deputy Director-General for Curriculum Policy Support and Monitoring, Dr Mamiki Maboya, appealed to District Directors to work with schools to recruit more young people to come on board the Second Chance Matric Support Programme, which aims to offer young people who have failed to meet the requirements of the NSC, the Amended Senior Certificate (ASC), as well as those who wish to upgrade or improve their results, with a second chance to obtain an improved qualification.

The Minister’s quarterly meetings with District Directors have become a highlight on the calendar of Departmental engagements and a quality forum to forge networks and collaborations; share information; learn from best practice; and generally grow in a community of education professionals who lead the charge to turn the education system around.



Role of research deliberated during Roundtable Discussion with Deans of Education and Engineering Faculties



“The importance of research and the analysis of available data to benchmark and identify gaps within the education system cannot be overlooked,” Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, said during the opening of the Roundtable Discussion with Deans of Education and Engineering Faculties.

Important outcomes emanating from the Roundtable Discussions include the establishment of a collaborative research repository shared by the DBE, the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) and other sister departments, Institutions for Higher Education (IHE) and research partners. Matters on Mathematics, Science, Technology, Languages, Teacher Development, Reading and Foundation Phase education were flagged as critical issues that need to be addressed for the 21st Century learner to require a specific set of knowledge and skills to tackle the Fourth Industrial Revolution with confidence.

The Roundtable Discussion took 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* where partners and role players converged to deliberate on Mathematics, Science and Technology and Languages (Commission 1) and Skills for a Changing World (Commission 2).

“Research points to the fact that both well-resourced fee-paying schools and no-fee-paying schools are underperforming in Mathematics. Education resources matter, but the climate of learning and the school plays a unique role that goes beyond access to resources. Both macro level analysis and micro-studies provide textured details about the challenges facing the education system,” said Dr Vijay Reddy, Executive Director: Education and Skills Development, Human Sciences Research Council, in her presentation on *The Role of Research in Improving Learner Outcomes*.

Presentations on the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS), the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) and the Southern and Eastern Africa Consortium for Monitoring Educational Quality (SACMEQ) emphasised the importance of benchmarking the South African education sector against international assessments. These presentations were made by Dr Mark Chetty, Acting Director, National Assessment at the DBE. Although the Reading and Mathematics score has improved at Grade 6 level in the SACMEQ 4 Report, it was evident that the knowledge and reading levels of South African teachers need to improve as they were not able to answer questions with a higher cognitive demand and were therefore not teaching the necessary skills to learners. Notwithstanding the fact that Life Orientation classes are offered in schools, the scores for learners and teachers on HIV/Aids knowledge levels have decreased and suggests that they are prone to risk and discrimination.

“The Fourth Industrial Revolution is based on the use of cyber-physical systems; learners and teachers should focus on the cognitive neuroscience of learning as brain science is informing new approaches to learning,” advised Dr Mamiki Maboya, Deputy Director-General for Curriculum Policy Support and Monitoring. Rapid technological advancement requires a new set of skills for both teachers and learners such as critical thinking, problem solving, innovation and entrepreneurship, to name but a few.

A presentation on Entrepreneurship and 21st Century Skills by Mr Godwin Khosa, CEO of the National Education Collaboration Trust and Dr Taddy Blecher, CEO of the Maharishi Institute was presented during the Roundtable Discussions. The DBE will be incorporating the *Sector Plan for Entrepreneurship Education in Schools: 2030* into the National School System. The focus on Entrepreneurship Education is to develop innovative, independent learners who will become competent employers and employees.

Presentations were also made by DBE senior managers on, amongst others, Inclusive Education and the Three Stream Model, the National Senior Certificate (NSC) 2017 results, Teacher Development, as well as the research implications and key policy questions in support of the *National Development Plan (NDP)* goals.

The National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT), academic institutions, teacher unions, and provincial officials responsible for Engineering, Mathematics, Science and Technology (MST), Languages, Curriculum, Teacher Development and other critical stakeholders such as the British Council, the Human Sciences Research Council, Unicef and the Flemish Association for Development Cooperation and Technical Assistance VVOB attended the Roundtable Discussions.



DBE honours Madiba through the National Teaching Awards



Government has dedicated the 18th National Teaching Awards (NTAs) to one of the greatest sons of Africa, Former President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. The Minister in the Presidency for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Mr Jeff Radebe, who represented President Cyril Ramaphosa, at the NTAs, described the world icon as a freedom fighter, a selfless leader, a democrat, and a founding father of our modern nation, who dedicated himself towards the realisation of a non-racial, non-sexist, democratic, and prosperous South Africa. “As a nation, we must continue to draw lessons and inspiration from his life, as we confront current challenges. We shall use this historic occasion, the Centenary of Madiba, to unite, rebuild and renew our country with a special focus on the basic education sector,” said Minister Radebe.

Minister Radebe further referred to basic education as the heart of the nation and thanked teachers for delivering quality education in public schools. “We are encouraged to reclaim the legacy and core values of Madiba by ensuring that the teaching profession is highly regarded for its extraordinary and valuable contribution to society. These awards should encourage teachers to rededicate and recommit themselves to quality learning and teaching. Teaching is a communal endeavour, and it is vital that the different stakeholders play their part in promoting basic education. As parents, teachers, community leaders, learners and ambitious students at centres of higher education and training, we must work together to make 2018 a resounding success.”

The winner of the Nelson Mandela Lifetime Achievement Award, Mr Andrew Taylor from Brebner High School in Bloemfontein, Free State Province, said: “The effective way of promoting excellence in teaching and school leadership is through the empowerment of teachers in their area of specialisation. The role of teachers is not only about educating, but also to promote social cohesion as they are dealing with learners from different backgrounds, who have different values, beliefs and cultures. Tata Mandela based his leadership on promoting peace, human rights, social justice and cultural tolerance. We, as teachers have to walk in his footsteps to change the world for the better. It is befitting for us to work towards promoting social cohesion at school level to groom our children to become accountable citizens who uphold human rights, constitutional values and responsibilities”.

The 18th NTA Ceremony honouring teachers as the heartbeat of the nation, was hosted by the Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga, at the Sandton International Convention Centre, in the Gauteng Province on 17 February 2018.



National School Nutrition Forum planned to share best practices

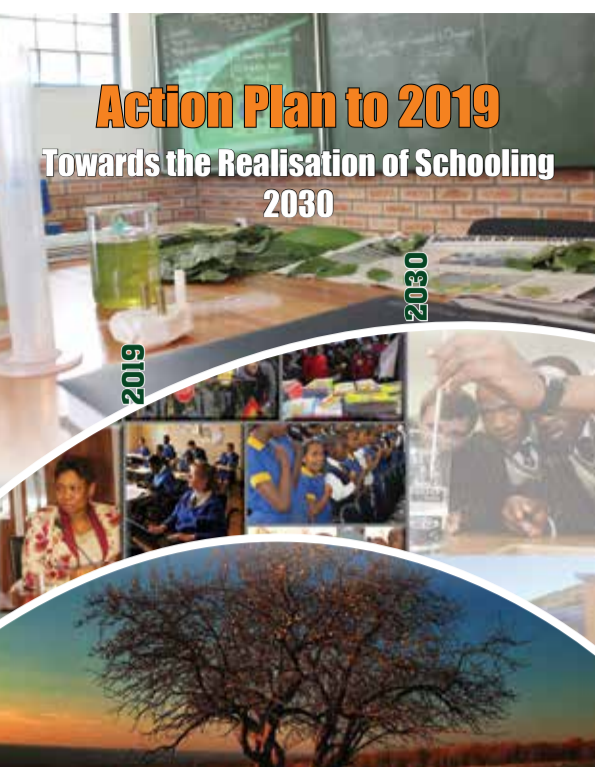
A National School Nutrition Forum will be held at the DBE in Pretoria from 28 February to 01 March 2018 under the theme: “Sharing Best Practices –Building a High Performance Team”. The Forum aims to strengthen and stimulate discussions on how to build on the successes of the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP).

The Forum also intends to encourage and stimulate the participation of key implementers at District and school level by sharing best practices. Identified provinces will therefore share best practice on various topics in line with the recommendations of the NSNP Evaluation Report of 2017. The establishment of nutrition task teams will also be on the cards to develop action plans which include education Districts as a link between Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) and schools. The Forum aims to strengthen partnerships within the nutrition sector.

The Forum will overlap with the Africa Day of School Feeding, an initiative of the Southern African Development Co-operation (SADC), which is observed annually on 01 March. The day emphasises the well-being of Africa’s children to ensure their optimal development for a brighter future in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal, no. 4 to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and to promote sustainable agriculture.



Invitation to all qualified educators seeking employment



The *Action Plan to 2019: Towards the Realisation of Schooling 2030*, in taking forward South Africa's *National Development Plan (NDP) 2030*, is related to the need identified for the education system to attract new, young, motivated and appropriately trained teachers into the profession and ensure their availability and efficient utilisation as part of improving teacher capacity and practices.

The DBE would therefore like to invite all appropriately qualified individuals seeking either permanent or temporary employment in public schools in South Africa, to register for the Qualified Educators Recruitment Database. To register, the form, with certified copies of teaching qualifications attached, should be submitted. All fields in the form are compulsory. The completed form and attached certificates should be posted to:

The Directorate: Education Human Resource Planning, Provisioning and Monitoring
Department of Basic Education
Private Bag X895
Pretoria
0001

Or hand delivered to: 222 Struben Street, Pretoria

Once all the relevant documentation have been submitted, names and details will be added to the Qualified Educators Recruitment Database which will be available on the DBE website. Schools with vacant posts will be able to select appropriately qualified candidates from the database, thus helping unemployed educators to obtain employment faster.

Click on the below link to view the Database of Unemployed Qualified Educators:

<https://www.education.gov.za/Informationfor/Teachers/UnemployedEducators.aspx>



Provincial Round-up

North West Province



Ms Stephinah Mmamotho Semaswe was recently appointed as the new Superintendent-General of the Department of Education and Sport Development in the North West Province, effective from 01 March 2018. Ms Semaswe has been acting in this position since the departure of Dr Itumeleng Molale. The DBE wishes her all of the best in her new position.

Western Cape Province



The Western Cape Education Department (WCED) has introduced a new online function to assist parents with tracking applications for the admission of their children to public schools. The WCED faces large volumes of queries relating to applications for admissions which places undue pressure on the system. The function will allow a parent or guardian to check via the WCED's website if an application submitted to the school has been captured on the School Admissions Management Information (SAMI) system. As soon as an application has been captured, an automated email will inform parents that the application has been captured by the school, provided that the parent has supplied a valid email address. The deadline for applications is 23 March 2018. The deadline applies in particular to children who are entering Grade 1 or Grade 8 in 2019, and children who are changing schools.

Upcoming Events

- 26 – 28 February 2018: Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, 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
- 05 – 14 March 2018: Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, will be embarking on his Provincial Engagement Programme to the Limpopo Province
- 15 March 2018: A Lunchbox Lekgotla seminar will be taking place at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 15 – 19 March 2018: Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, will be embarking on his Provincial Engagement Programme to the Gauteng Province
- 20 – 23 March 2018: Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, will be embarking on his Provincial Engagement Programme to the North West Province
- 26 – 28 March 2018: Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, will be embarking on his Provincial Engagement Programme to the Western Cape Province
- 13 – 18 April 2018: Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, will be embarking on his Provincial Engagement Programme to the Mpumalanga 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!