



basic education

Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



NEWSLETTER

## DBE hosts roadshows on the implementation of the *National Policy on HIV, STIs and TB* in schools



**STI's**  
Sexually Transmitted Infections



The Department of Basic Education (DBE) commenced with advocacy and training workshops with key stakeholders on the new *National Policy on HIV, STIs and TB* for all Learners, Educators, School Support Staff and Officials in all Primary and Secondary Schools on 26 February 2018 at the Protea Hotel Ranch Resort in Polokwane, Limpopo Province.

The workshops are taking place in preparation for a fully-fledged rollout of the Policy, which is expected to help the Basic Education Sector address the challenges brought about by rising infections. South Africa accounts for approximately 17% of the global HIV infections and currently has the largest HIV programme in the world. TB is also at an alarming epidemic rate with South Africa ranked at 3<sup>rd</sup> in the world with infected cases.

“HIV and AIDS is no longer simply a health concern, but a developmental problem that affects the social, cultural, political and economic fabric of the nation. It therefore must be tackled within the context of the behavioural, economic, socio-cultural and environmental factors driving the epidemic. With the evolution of the HIV epidemic over the decades, there has been a need for the Department to revise its approach and strategies in the sector, and to also give expression to the Department’s response to TB in line with the latest available evidence and lessons from implementing the life skills programme”, Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, said during previous engagements with Education Sector stakeholders.

The DBE will continue hosting provincial workshops with key stakeholders to explore feasible ways in which the provisions of the Policy can best be rendered to learners, educators and support staff within the school environment. The workshops will allow the Provinces and Districts to discuss their unique challenges and feasibly find long term sustainable solutions.



# 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.

*Thuto* will carry news of the Director-General's visits to the provinces. Click on the below link for additional information:

<https://www.education.gov.za/Home/DGProvincialEngagements2018.aspx>

## National School Nutrition Forum shares best practices to build a high performance team



A National School Nutrition Forum took place at the DBE in Pretoria from 28 February to 01 March 2018 under the theme: “Sharing Best Practices – Building a High Performance Team” to build on the successes of the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP). Director overseeing the NSNP, Ms Neo Rakwena, reflected on the first National Nutrition Forum, which took place in 2017 under the theme: “Enhancing quality, efficiency and capacity”, saying: “These Forums are not just talk-shops, but a collaborative platform where best practice and innovative ideas are shared by the *food soldiers* of the basic education sector to effectively implement and monitor the NSNP Programme”.

The Forum encourages and stimulates the participation of key implementers at District and school level by sharing best practices in line with the recommendations of the NSNP Evaluation Report of 2017. Deputy Director-General for Social Mobilisation and Support Services, Dr Granville Whittle, in his welcome address, said: “The NSNP Programme, which provides approximately 9 million South African learners in primary and secondary schools with a daily balanced and nutritious meal, is a success story because the DBE, the Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) and the sector partners have been working together as a high-performance team”.

Mrs Sheila Sisulu, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, Tiger Brands Foundation, and Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Programme, addressed delegates on “Setting the scene, Embracing long-term hunger solutions”. It was a great honour for the DBE to host Mrs Sisulu as 2018 has not just been identified as the Nelson Mandela Centenary celebrations, but the centenary year coincides with the life and times of Mrs Albertina Sisulu and her contribution in the reshaping of a new South African society. The Tiger Brands’ *In School Breakfast* initiative provides the most essential meal to learners in school in all nine provinces on a daily basis. Learners who have breakfast, perform better and their learning capacity in Mathematics and Science increase.

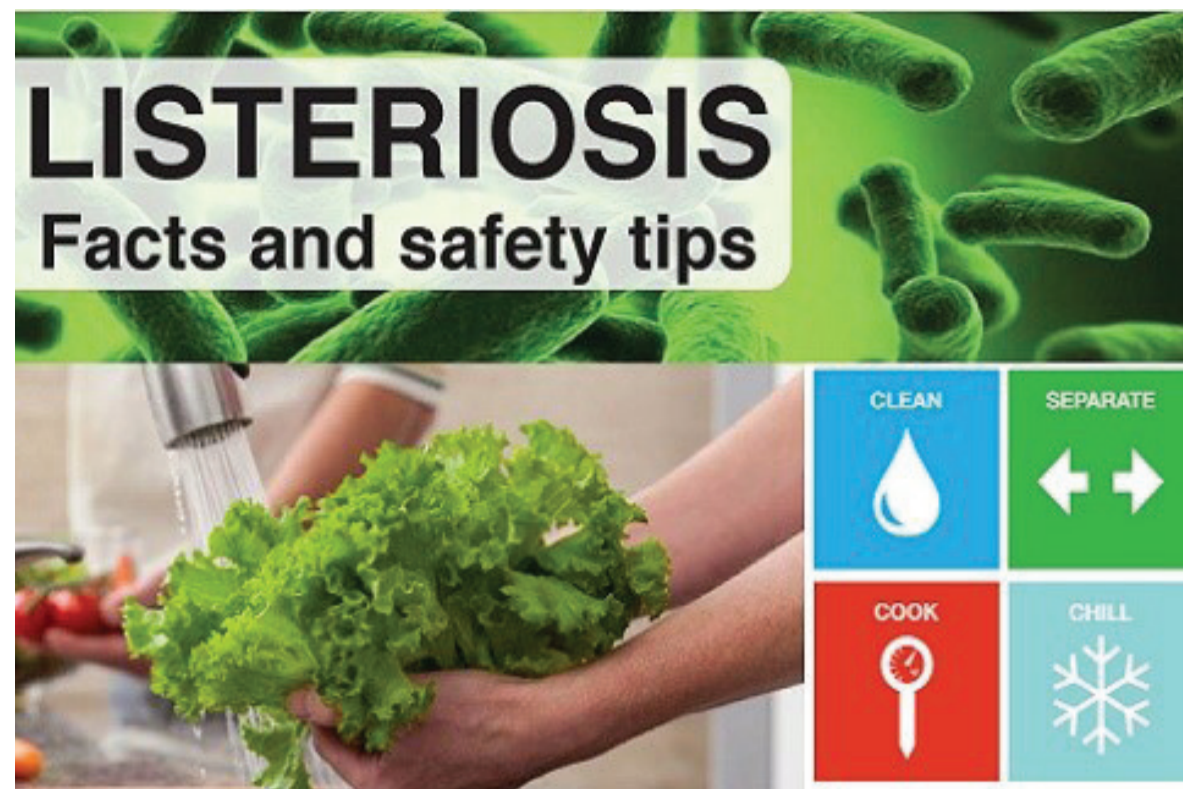
DBE officials shared their experiences about international best practices by relating their accounts on Global Child Nutrition Forums attended from 2014 to date. Brazil has remained the best example for the past 60 years since 1956 - providing 40 million children and youth from nurseries to high schools with balanced meals. Dr Whittle suggested that a South African delegation, comprising of DBE and PED officials be sent to Brazil.

Ms Rebone Ntsie, Director from the Department of Health (DoH), presented shocking statistics on obesity in schools. Obesity increases the risk of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) such as cardiovascular diseases, hypertension, diabetes and cancers, and are the most common cause of disability and premature deaths in the country. South Africa has the highest obesity rate in the Sub-Saharan region, and the second highest on the African continent.

After the various presentations, the Forum was divided into seven commissions. Several resolutions discussed during the Forum included the empowerment of local small-scale farmers and communities; the piloting of the *GCNF Resource Framework on Home School Meals* for NSNP volunteers; and for all sister departments - Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Social Development, Health and Trade and Industry - to form a collaborative effort to make the NSNP Programme an even greater success story.



# What is Listeriosis and how can it be prevented?



Preventing the outbreak and spread of Listeriosis in South Africa is key after the recent spate of incidences reported where people were hospitalised. Listeriosis is serious and many fatalities have been reported.

Listeriosis is a serious, but preventable and treatable disease caused by the bacterium *Listeria monocytogenes*. The bacteria are widely distributed in nature and can be found in soil, water, vegetation and the faeces of some animals. Animal products (including meat, meat products and dairy products), seafood and fresh produce such as fruits and vegetables can be contaminated from these sources. There have been 852 laboratory-confirmed cases of Listeriosis in the country as at 05 February 2018. Be alert and report to the nearest clinic any onset of the following symptoms: diarrhoea, headache, neck stiffness, confusion, loss of balance and flu like symptoms.

As part of preventative and control measures, the DBE continues to raise the standards on health, hygiene and food safety through sharing information on Listeriosis. School Principals and stakeholders have the responsibility to ensure food safety and to identify and minimise hazards in the food served to learners.

In the case of a suspected Listeriosis illness, the School Principal will be required to contact the local Department of Health and also report the incident to the local municipality. School Principals must ensure that NSNP food is sourced from reputable companies, retailers and local stores that are licensed with a Certificate of Acceptability. School Principals must ensure that volunteer food handlers prepare fresh food daily. Food must be cooked every morning and served immediately and not be stored overnight to avoid excessive bacterial growth in warm temperatures. Volunteer food handlers should maintain a high level of personal hygiene and wash their hands at all times. Food hygiene principles, as outlined in the World Health Organisation's *Five Keys to Safer Food Programme*, must be applied at all times in tuck-shops, kitchens and by food vendors.

## Five Keys TO SAFER FOOD

- 1 KEEP CLEAN**
- 2 SEPARATED RAW AND COOKED**
- 3 COOK THOROUGHLY**
- 4 KEEP FOOD AT SAFE TEMPERATURE**
- 5 USE SAFE WATER AND RAW MATERIALS**

ACADEMY OF CULINARY ART CAMBODIA

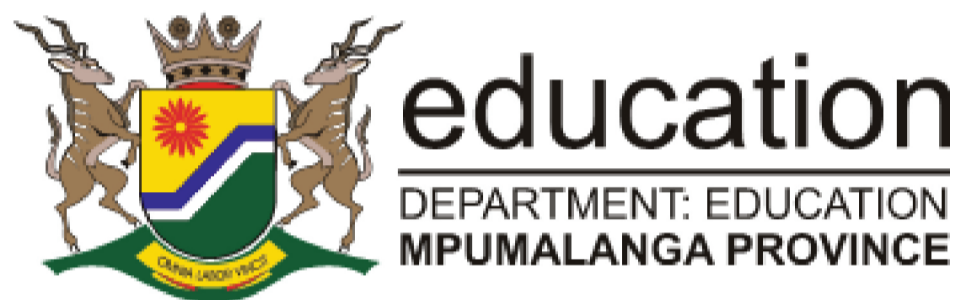
# Provincial Round-up

## Eastern Cape Province



An agreement was signed between Eskom and the Technology Research Activity Centre South Africa (TRAC SA) on 24 February 2018 to assist the Eastern Cape Provincial Education Department (ECED) with Physical Science, Mathematics and Technology education in schools in the Eastern Cape Province. This agreement follows an earlier accord that was signed by the ECED and TRAC SA in March 2016 with five schools in the Kouga Local Municipality. TRAC 2 is now being implemented in an additional 25 selected schools (Grade 10 – 12) in the Libode, Qumbu, Cofimvaba, East London and Uitenhage Districts, bringing the total number to 30 schools. The TRAC programme has shown remarkable results within the first year of inception with approximately 2,000 learners and 30 educators from 30 schools having benefitted from the programme. The ECED is confident that the partnership will increase the pass rate in Mathematics and Physical Science, as well as the enrolment into Science and Engineering for future skills needs within the Province.

## Mpumalanga Province



The Mpumalanga Provincial Government will invest more than R350 million for the construction of a Thaba Chweu Municipality boarding school in the Bohlabela District. The state-of-the-art facility is expected to open its doors for learning in the 2019 academic year. In addition to the above, the construction of an additional boarding school in the Gert Sibande Municipality is also underway. It is envisaged that the school will open its doors to learning and teaching in the 2020 academic year. The schools will replace dysfunctional farm schools in the Province and will provide new, safe and secure environments for rural learners with equal opportunities to access quality education.

## Upcoming Events

- 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
- 08 March 2018: The National School Nutrition Programme Best Schools and District Awards to recognise excellence in the school feeding programme will be taking place in Heidelberg, Gauteng Province
- 15 – 19 March 2018: Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, will be embarking on his Provincial Engagement Programme to the Gauteng Province
- 22 – 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
- 18 – 20 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



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