



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



NEWSLETTER

Ratanda Primary School takes best NSNP Awards



Ratanda Primary School in Heidelberg, Gauteng Province emerged as the winner of the 2017/18 National School Nutrition Programme Best School and District Awards. The award ceremony took place at the school on 08 March 2018. Ratanda Primary School has been awarded with various prizes from the Department and the Tiger Brands Foundation, including the installation of an industrial grade kitchen.

The qualities that have made Ratanda Primary School a winning school are its successful adherence to the NSNP guidelines, innovation in implementing the Programme, and its promotion of nutrition education.

Lerole Primary School from the Free State Province was in second position with Sijabule Primary School from the Mpumalanga Province in third position.

The Department has, since 2010 through the NSNP Awards, recognised schools, Districts and food handlers who have shown excellence in delivering on the mandate of the NSNP.

The DBE expressed its gratitude to all partners who continue to add to the efforts to extend the reach and service levels of the Programme. Tiger Brands Foundation is sponsoring several of the prizes that were awarded, including the provision of an in-school breakfast programme to the winning school.

The NSNP Best School and District Awards are but one of the ways in which the Department acknowledges and encourages schools and Districts to showcase excellence and share best practice.

Portfolio Committee briefed on progress made in school infrastructure delivery



The Department of Basic Education (DBE), in collaboration with Provincial Education Departments (PEDs), have made significant strides in addressing school infrastructure challenges. The Department, led by Basic Education Deputy Minister, Mr Enver Surty, briefed the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education on the progress made towards delivering school infrastructure in Parliament, Cape Town, on 06 March 2018.

Deputy Minister Surty informed the Portfolio Committee that the bulk of the work was taking place in provinces and that the DBE mainly played an oversight role, except for the Accelerated Schools Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (ASIDI), which it manages directly. The Deputy Minister added that the situation was far from being fully addressed but that, based on the number of schools completed and those under construction, there was hope on the horizon. The Department needed the co-operation of other organs of state and government departments to succeed in the provision of school infrastructure.

Director-General of the DBE, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, informed the Committee that the expenditure on school infrastructure indicated that, by January 2018, KwaZulu-Natal had already spent 93% of their infrastructure budget from the equitable share. Mr Mveli reported that storms had damaged 324 schools in the Province in 2017, and that it placed a huge financial burden on the Province as mobile classrooms and other facilities had to be provided to ensure learners were not negatively affected.

Click on the below link for the full media release:

<https://www.education.gov.za/Newsroom/MediaReleases/tabid/347/ctl/Details/mid/7002/ItemID/5548/Default.aspx>

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>

DBE conducts consultative visits to rural communities to finalise *Rural Education Policy*



The Director for Rural Education, Dr Phumzile Langa, joined by national and provincial officials, conducted follow up consultative visits to Limpopo and the Eastern Cape Provinces to present the draft *Rural Education Policy* to various education stakeholders comprising of teachers, school principals, parents, learners, School Governing Bodies (SGBs) and community leaders.

The visits were guided by the recommendation made by the Rural Education Policy Research Team, which was appointed by Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga in 2016, to engage several education stakeholders on the policy development processes to establish a model that will assist schools in rural areas to achieve quality education. The research team was mandated to use a research and consultative based approach to allow the majority of education stakeholders to make the necessary inputs before the Policy is implemented in the Education Sector.

The consultative visits commenced in Sekhukhune, Limpopo Province on 06 March 2018, followed by a two day consultative visit to King Williams Town, Eastern Cape Province from 08 to 09 March 2018. The DBE is organising these visits to gather as much information as possible on the challenges affecting quality learning and teaching in rural schools.

Addressing education stakeholders in the Eastern Cape Province, Dr Langa said: "We came to your province to engage you on the challenges that you are encountering as rural communities." Dr Langa informed the participants that a Draft *Rural Education Policy* was gazetted for public comment and added: "We conduct these visits to give education stakeholders an opportunity to express their views on various attributes that can be used to improve quality education in rural schools".

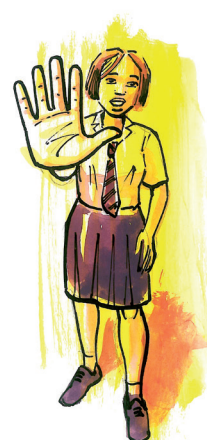
The Policy will also assist Government to strengthen Agriculture to respond to the changing socio-economic needs of rural communities. Each province must have at least one self-sufficient Agricultural school to empower learners with Agricultural skills. Artistic learners also need to be supported to become professional artists, singers and dancers. "It is recommended that we establish Art in local schools to support gifted learners in the area of entertainment."

Another issue that was raised during the consultative visit was the recruitment of Mathematics and Science teachers in rural areas. "We need to recruit quality teachers in rural areas and retain those who are already in the sector, so that quality learning and teaching is not compromised."

During the interactive session, community members said that learners in rural areas need to be exposed to Information Communication and Technology (ICT) to be fully equipped with the necessary skills required for the 21st Century. They also urged Government to improve scholar transport in the province for learners to attend school every day.



Department to launch *STOP, WALK, TALK* *Anti-bullying Campaign*



The Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) indicates that school bullying impacts on a learner's academic performance. The Study also states that pupils who were victims of bullying did worse in Mathematics than those who were not bullied.

In response to the high prevalence of bullying in schools, the Department has developed and implemented information and awareness campaigns to address all forms of bullying using multiple strategies and partnerships in schools. During April 2018 a national bullying prevention programme will be launched and rolled out to all South African public schools under the slogan: *STOP, WALK, TALK*. The DBE has collaborated with Mindset to create an anti-bullying animated television series for primary and high schools to assist in curbing violence in schools. The series will be broadcast on the DSTV Channel 319, the OVHD Channel 134 and Stars at Channel 309. These series will be utilised in support of the *STOP, WALK, TALK Anti-bullying Campaign*.

Victims and perpetrators of bullying are at risk of academic and psycho-social challenges which may lead to depression, anxiety, loneliness, low self-esteem and even suicide. These learners are at risk of absenteeism, underperformance and dropping out of school. Bullies are more likely to become involved in criminal activities and traffic violations. Learners who are both victims and perpetrators of bullying, are found to have significantly lower levels of social acceptance and self-esteem than children who are bullies or victims only.

The DBE is urging education stakeholders to unite against bullying behaviour in schools in order to create an environment that is conducive to learning. The *National School Safety Framework* (NSSF) was developed as an all-inclusive strategy to guide the DBE, Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) and schools in a co-ordinated effort to address violence in schools. The Framework aims to create a safe and violence-free environment in support of learning and teaching for learners, educators, principals, School Governing Bodies (SGBs) and administrators.

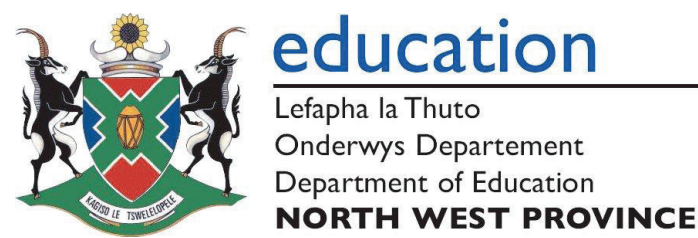
Director for the Safety in Education Directorate, Mr Paseka Njobe, said: "The Department has developed and trained educators on the *Guidelines for the Prevention and Management of Bullying in Schools*. This includes all forms of bullying, for example physical, verbal, non-verbal, social, sexual and cyber bullying. Currently, the number of educators trained in all nine provinces totals 6,475, and is ongoing". Bullying policies are implemented in schools through a code of conduct for learners and parents. All government schools also have a confidential reporting system in place, and it is linked to the South African Police Service (SAPS).

The DBE has developed *E-Safety Guidelines* to educate learners about different types of bullying, particularly online bullying and encourages them to remain vigilant when using e-learning programmes and Information Communication and Technology (ICT).

Learners are advised to immediately report threats and acts of bullying to educators or to the School Management Team (SMT). The SMT must also keep records of recurring incidences. In the case of cyber bullying, learners should notify parents or a trusted adult about the incident.

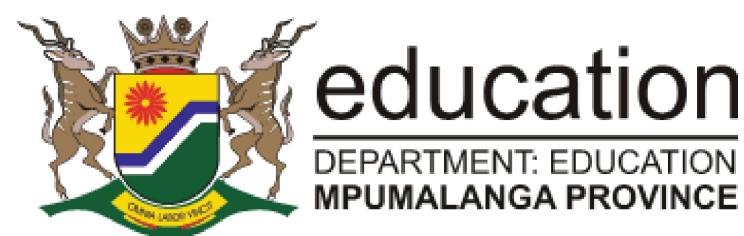
Regional Round-up

North West



The North West Education and Sport Development MEC, Mr Sello Lehari, launched the Wednesday School Sport League for football for boy and girl learners under 17 years of age at the Batlhaping Secondary School, Taung on 07 March 2018. The primary objective of the Wednesday School Sport League is to revive school sport to identify sporting talent at schools. The initiative is further aimed at reducing obesity amongst the youth. During the Wednesday School Sport League, schools will compete against each other as well as various wards, villages, municipalities and Districts for one provincial team for boys, and one for girls to emerge victorious. The provincial teams of boys and girls will then play against the Professional Soccer League Reserve Side during the Maize Cup Tournament. During February 2018, the Department launched the Villages, Township and Small Dorpies Games, aimed at exposing sporting talent from the broader community.

Mpumalanga



The Mpumalanga Education Department has received the biggest portion of the provincial budget with over R20.97 million, which equates to 43.6% of the total provincial budget for the 2018/19 financial year. Delivering his budget speech on 06 March 2018, MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, Mr Sikhumbuzo Eric Kholwane, said the budget for education will fund school infrastructure and provide dignity packs and bursaries to learners. The Province is broadening access to education by building more boarding schools to mitigate the dysfunctional learning environment of farm schools. In line with the government priorities of social protection, security and societal development, the province has allocated R38,045,732 to the Social Sector departments as these provide essential services to the poor. "Education has an influence of immense proportions in our efforts to fight the triple challenge of poverty, unemployment and inequality, particularly in improving the employability of the provincial labour force," MEC Kholwane concluded.

Free State Province



The Free State Education Department will be building nine new schools in the upcoming year to increase the capacity and intake of learners. The building of the nine new schools will take place in the 2018/19 financial year:

- New Special School in Trompsburg;
- DR Sello Primary School in Viljoenskroon;
- Vogelfontein Primary School in Bethlehem;
- Morena Tshohisi Intermediary School in Harrismith;
- Katlego Mpumelelo Primary School in Sasolburg;
- Tweeling Combined School in Tweeling;
- Tshehetso Primary School in Bothaville;
- Tsebo Ulwazi Secondary School in Frankfort; and
- Parys Primary School in Parys.

During 2017, the Province also launched five Smart Schools and anticipates the completion of the project by 30 March 2018. In addition to the above, the Province has completed the first phase of the renovations of a School of Skills at Qelo Primary School in Botshabelo and is currently busy with the implementation of the second phase of the project.

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
- 12 – 13 March 2018: DBE to host provincial engagements with rural communities to engage on the Draft *Rural Education Policy* in the iLembe District, KwaZulu-Natal 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
- 06 April 2018: The National Education Excellence Awards will be hosted in Pretoria, Gauteng 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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