



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



NEWSLETTER

Minister Motshekga sends condolences to family of child who passed away from falling into pit latrine



It is with an immense sense of sadness that the Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga, was informed that a learner, 5 year-old Viwe Jali from the Luna Primary School in Bizana, Eastern Cape Province fell into a pit latrine on 12 March 2018 and passed away.

“The death of a child in such an undignified manner is completely unacceptable, and incredibly disturbing. I would like to send my sincere condolences to the family of our Viwe Jali, who passed away tragically on Tuesday. I cannot begin to know the trauma the parents are experiencing, it is truly a tragic incident and my sympathies are with them. When a tragedy like this occurs it makes us more resolute of the continued need for the Accelerated School Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (ASIDI) so that we can continue to fast track these schools that are in desperate need of infrastructure and make them safe havens for our children,” said Minister Motshekga.

Counselling services are being provided to the school, and a case has been opened with the local police station, case 38/3/2018 at the Mzamba Police Station. Investigations are proceeding into the circumstances surrounding Jali’s death.

The Department is doing everything in its capacity to address infrastructure backlogs in a timely manner by prioritising unsafe structures and those without decent sanitation, electricity and water. The Ministry holds bi-weekly meetings with Implementing Agents and the Infrastructure Team at the Department to ensure that infrastructure targets are prioritised.

Minister of Basic Education addresses the National Teachers' Union (NATU) Principals' Conference in Durban

“We converge here today under the theme: *‘School Principals as the vanguard of change, improving, supporting their schools and harnessing the best opportunities for learners to succeed’*. The theme of this conference is apt, considering that the expectation of society from principals has evolved quite significantly in the last decade as we move towards the 4th Industrial Revolution,” Minister Motshekga said in her NATU address.

“The year marks the centenary of Former President Nelson Mandela. As principals, you ought to internalise Madiba’s core values – a spirit of forgiveness, his passion to put people first and courage. These attributes must guide your work as you interact with your peers, learners, teachers and communities,” Minister Motshekga continued.

“There is a coincidence in that, as we celebrate Madiba’s centenary, NATU is also celebrating its own celebratory moment as 2018 marks the centenary of NATU. For 100 years, NATU has been a torchbearer, not only defending the rights of children to learn, but also that of safeguarding, adhering and dedicating itself to working selflessly for the rights of teachers to teach. We salute NATU on this momentous occasion and may you grow from strength to strength!”

“We need principals with a long-term vision, to inculcate within the school communities issues of innovation and integration of the Information Communication and Technology (ICTs) for both learning and teaching. We have to upskill the current corps of principals and make them relevant to the current changes in our global village society. The development of such is a joint responsibility between the Department and yourselves, as we have demonstrated in the development of the training programmes for principals under the Teacher-Union Collaboration initiative. I am aware of how the NATU and the DBE’s management and governance section have jointly been conducting training programmes for principals across the country.”

“We have to improve the recruitment and selection procedures for the appointment of the new cohort of principals, if we are to ensure that only the best are appointed to leadership positions, as the National Development Plan (NDP) demands of us. The NDP calls for the introduction of competency assessments in the appointment processes of principals to ensure that only competent teachers become principals,” Minister Motshekga concluded.



National Teachers Union

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DBE and German Embassy expand the level of co-operation on basic education



On 12 March 2018, Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, met the new Ambassador of the Republic of Germany in South Africa, His Excellency, Dr Martin Schäfer, to discuss possible ways to expand the level of co-operation on basic education. The meeting took place at the Department of Basic Education (DBE) in Pretoria.

During this meeting the two parties expressed an interest on co-operating further in Vocational and Technical education and training, as well as the promotion of the German Abitur in German schools operating in South Africa. The Governments of the Republic of South Africa and the Federal Republic of Germany officially signed the Agreement on “*The Introduction of a German-South African Bilingual Secondary School Qualification*” on 07 May 2009. However, despite the official Agreement being signed between the two countries, it only officially entered into force during 2017.

Germany has a total of 140 schools abroad, with three of them located in Pretoria, Johannesburg and Cape Town. South Africa is also home to 12 schools offering the Deutsche Sprachdiplom (DSD), spread across the Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Free State, Northern Cape, Western Cape and Eastern Cape Provinces. The three German schools are supported by a full-time Educational Quality Manager located in Cape Town, whilst the 12 DSD schools are supported by the German Language Advisor and Co-ordinator situated at the DBE.

Dr Schäfer alluded to the fact that Germany is committed to work with South Africa on improving quality education, particularly in the area of Vocational and Technical education and training. “This partnership provides an opportunity for us to engage with each other to improve the specific areas that need more attention. I thank you Minister for affording us an opportunity to work with the South African Government in providing quality education to learners from both parties,” said the Ambassador.

Minister Motshekga acknowledged Germany’s intention to promote the German Language in the country, saying that it will empower South African youth to participate in exchange programmes between Germany and South Africa. “This partnership is important because it assists us as a sector to assess our education status; especially the strengthening of the non-academic stream (the Three Stream Model) in South Africa,” said Minister Motshekga.

Deputy Minister Enver Surty addresses Gauteng school learners during Anti-Racism Week



Basic Education Deputy Minister, Mr Enver Surty, is currently visiting various Gauteng schools in his capacity as patron of Anti-Racism Week during 14 to 21 March 2018, which is held annually in South Africa during Human Rights Month, and culminates on Human Rights Day and the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Anti-Racism Week is aimed at creating public awareness about racism, and how it affects individuals and broader society. It's about ensuring that there is a countrywide focus on tackling racism.

During these school visits, Deputy Minister Surty referred to the *Immorality Act of 1950*, as well as the *Mix Marriages Act*, also passed in 1950, to ensure that South Africans would not be able to marry someone of a different race, referring to the Anti-

apartheid struggle activist, Mr Ahmed Kathrada, who flouted these laws because of his relationship with Ms Sylvia Neame.

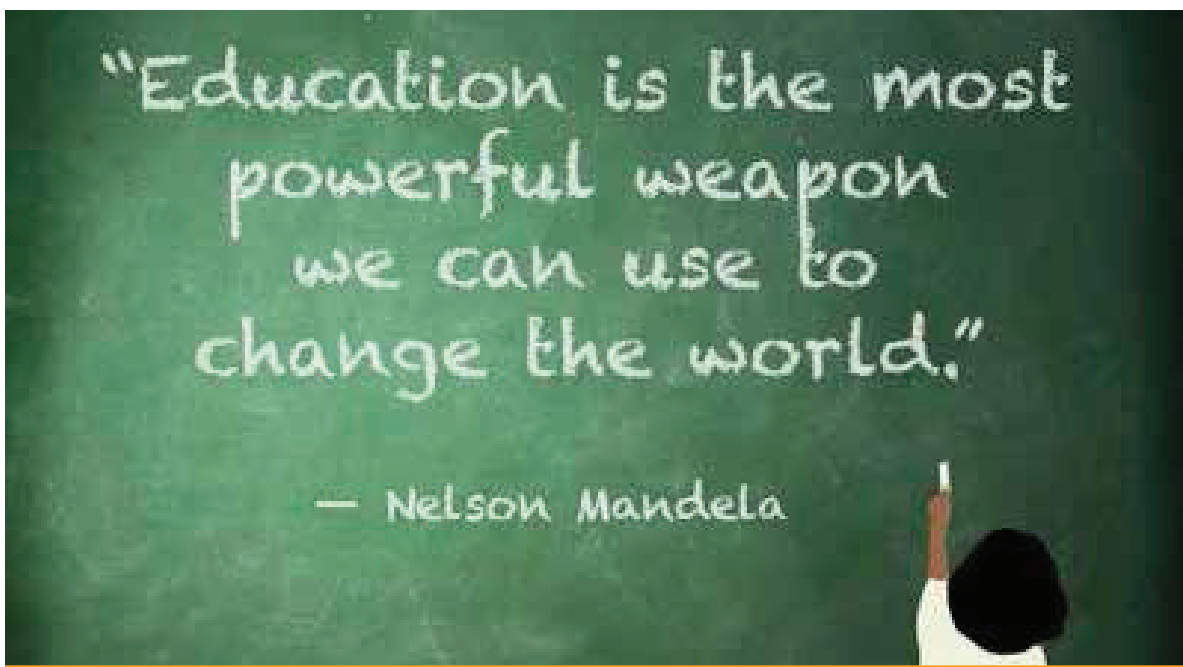
“I’m raising this because Anti-Racism Week is about encouraging people to learn about racism and to speak out against it. Today, as you all know, you can by law date or marry anyone across any race; and you can be friends with people across any race. You can share your lunch during break with anyone from across any race and you can sit at the same table at school, listening to a teacher from any race, without the police coming in to disrupt the lesson.”

“You as the youth, should see things with the eye of the future. And this is a future where race should not define how you live your life. It will mean that you as young people challenge the norms that society – with its deeply divided past – has set up. It means that when someone makes a racist joke at home, you speak out against it, or when a teacher ridicules someone because of their race, you raise objection to it, or when someone is bullied on the playground because of their race, culture, religion, ethnicity, language or accent, you stand up for them and report it to the principal. It means that you must learn about the past and what it did to separate people, and you must develop ways to counter those old, outdated views, and bring people from different backgrounds together, and find common ways to solve problems at your school and within your community.”

Anti-Racism Week is initiated by the Anti-Racism Network South Africa (ARNSA), and supported by the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation, and aims to mobilise communities, schools, universities, workplaces, government departments and various other organisations to plan and host their own anti-racism activities to tackle racism throughout the year. South Africans are invited to learn about racism, talk about racism, speak out against racism, report racism and act against racism at: **Why#RootingOutRacism?**



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/Newsroom/NewsletterDGProvincialEngagements2018.aspx>



Rural Education Directorate launches several projects in support of the *Rural Education Policy*



Director for Rural Education, Dr Phumzile Langa, joined by national and provincial officials, last week conducted consultative visits to provinces to present the draft *Rural Education Policy* to various education stakeholders. These 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. Dr Langa then visited the iLembe District in the KwaZulu-Natal Province from 12 to 13 March 2018, where the consultation process on the Policy was officially concluded. The draft *Rural Education Policy* was generally well received. The date for the submission of public comments on the draft Policy is 31 March 2018.

The recruitment and retention of teachers through the provision of accommodation at the Edu-Village took centre stage during the consultation meeting. As part of an interactive session, a Grade 12 learner from Ubuhlebesizwe Secondary School in Ndwedwe, KwaZulu-Natal Province, Nonhle Shangase, said: “As learners we are excited to see that teachers will be provided with safe accommodation because the extra classes they assist with pose a risk when they have to travel long distances to the school and back late in the afternoons, or when the weather conditions are bad.”

Parents also commended the DBE on their suggestions for transforming the education landscape in rural communities. Mr Jabulani Gumede, School Governing Body (SGB) Chairperson for Umphumulo Primary School in the KwaZulu-Natal Province said: “As parents we support the idea of exposing learners to subjects that will equip them with Vocational and Agricultural skills. This will assist schools in reducing the dropout rate, especially amongst learners who are not interested in the academic stream”. The Policy will also look into possible ways to extend the subject choice for learners, for them to be exposed to non-academic streams such as Art, Agriculture and Sport.

According to Dr Langa, the current academic stream needs to be expanded to offer skills for learners to serve in their respective rural communities. “Our approach through this Policy is to strengthen entrepreneurship amongst the youth through the utilisation of the existing resources in these communities. The Policy will be a game changer in the education sector because it will contribute towards rural development, and breach the equality gap between urban and rural schools”.

Dr Langa further explained that her Directorate has launched several projects in support of the *Rural Education Policy*. “The Rural Education Assistance Project will target unemployed matriculants who will be recruited to assist teachers in the promotion of literacy and numeracy from Foundation to Senior Phase. This project will be piloted in the KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape and Limpopo Provinces. On the Classification of Rural Schools, the DBE partnered with Statistics SA to assist in terms of finding the right definition for rural schools. Through this partnership, we are certain that we could initiate accurate indexes for the classification of all rural schools in the country”.

“The Agricultural Education Project is aimed at developing a model for a Self-sufficient Agricultural School that will promote the teaching of Agriculture and entrepreneurship to young rural learners in a revenue-generating Agricultural School. During 2017, we undertook consultative visits to the best performing Agricultural Schools in various provinces to share best practice. This year, we will be continuing with consultative visits to under-resourced Agricultural Schools, targeting the Northern Cape, North West, Eastern Cape and Mpumalanga Provinces. Our visits will be carried out as part of a comparative study aimed at collecting information on the challenges faced by various Agricultural Schools in the country for us to be in a better position to improve quality learning and teaching in those schools,” Dr Langa concluded.



March is World Tuberculosis Month



Annually on 24 March, the global community commemorates World TB Day to raise public awareness of Tuberculosis and the efforts made to prevent and treat the disease.

The DBE will commemorate the 2018 World TB Day in April at Edisang Primary School, Matlosana, in the Dr Kenneth Kaunda (Dr KK) District, North West Province. Dr KK is one of the high TB-burden districts and Edisang Primary School, in particular, is located within a peri-mining community. Mining communities are more vulnerable to TB infection due to associated risk factors such as silica dust exposure, overcrowding and poor nutrition, amongst others.

Because TB is spread through the air by a person infected with TB, cough etiquette is a vital part of curbing its spread. A single patient can infect 10 to 15 people each year.

Common symptoms of TB include a cough that lasts two weeks or longer; loss of appetite and weight; coughing up blood; night sweats; weakness or fatigue; and persistent fever.

Tips on how to prevent the spread of TB:

- Always cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze. It is best to cough into a tissue or your arm to prevent the spread of infection;
- Look out for TB symptoms in your family members or yourself. Contact your local health facility as soon as you suspect TB disease;
- Keep rooms in your home well ventilated by opening windows and doors;
- Ensure that you receive optimal nutrition and lead a healthy lifestyle which includes enough physical activity/exercise;
- Support family members or neighbours that are taking TB treatment by ensuring that they complete their 6 months course; and
- Do not discriminate against children or people who are sick with TB.

Play your part and take the lead to end TB!

Learning through PLAY



PLAY is a partnership between the DBE, UNICEF, Cotlands and the LEGO Foundation aimed at training 150,000 Early Childhood Development (ECD) practitioners, Grade R and Foundation Phase educators across South Africa on play-based learning.

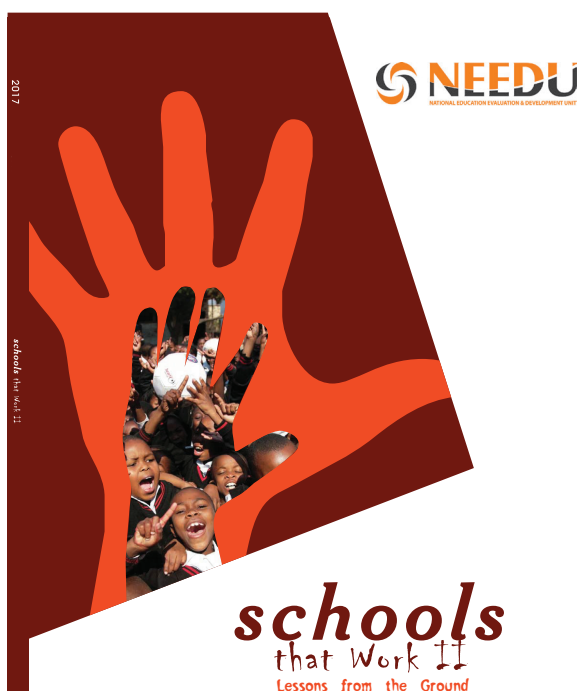
PLAY is a free in-service training course that complements existing and formal training. It is not intended to replace educational training, but qualifies the participant for the 15 CPD credits as set out by the South African Council for Educators (SACE) in terms of section 5(b) of the *South African Council for Educators Act 31 of 2000*.

The course, which only requires two dedicated hours a week, is completed at one's own pace. The course starts immediately after one registers on: <https://playsa.org/about/>

The participant will be guided to complete a series of sessions for each of three course options. The courses are designed for practitioners, teachers, play group facilitators or anyone who implements programmes for babies and young children in South Africa. The course sessions include videos, images, reading, tasks and evaluation and reflection activities. After every completed session, a participant will receive an email with more PLAY ideas and helpful resources. Participants will receive a certificate after the completion of the course.

All parties involved share the mission of inspiring and developing the entrepreneurs of tomorrow, using learning through play to empower children to become creative and engaged lifelong learners.

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.

Policy Briefs are available on the below link:

<https://www.education.gov.za/NEEDUPolicybriefsseries.aspx>

Regional Round-up

Western Cape



The Western Cape Education Department (WCED) continues to invest in school infrastructure to meet the demands for schooling in the Province. On 13 March 2018, Minister of Education, Ms Debbie Schäfer and Minister of Transport and Public Works, Mr Donald Grant, visited the site of the new Kraaifontein High School in Cape Town. The completion of this state-of-the-art, R64 million school is expected later this year. This 16 month project will provide a much-needed secondary school for Kraaifontein. The new school comprises of 30 standard classrooms and 6 specialist classrooms, including 2 multipurpose classrooms, 2 science laboratories, a multimedia centre and a computer laboratory. The school will accommodate 1,110 learners from Grades 8 to 12, as well as 38 teaching and support staff. The building of this school has incorporated water-wise features which include the installation of borehole facilities and a tank farm; water-wise sanitary fittings; and a water-restrictor on the main water line.

Gauteng Province



Gauteng youth, who are making a difference by contributing to the Province's growth and development, were honoured at the inaugural Premier's Youth Excellence and Service Awards held on 11 March 2018. Gauteng Government has paid special attention to services and programmes aimed at advancing youth development in the Province by investing in revolutionising education and spending more than R50 million on tertiary education bursaries. Awardees were recognised in the following categories: Special Recognition for young Trailblazers; Community Safety; Health and Wellness; Education, Training and Skills Development; Economic Development; and Sport, Arts and Culture. Gauteng Premier, Mr David Makhura, said that investing in the youth is investing in the future through the Tshepo 1 Million Programme, which aims to give young people hope by facilitating entrepreneurship development, employment and skills development.

Upcoming Events

- 01 – 31 March 2018: School Governing Body (SGB) Elections
- 15 – 19 March 2018: Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, will be embarking on his Provincial Engagement Programme to the Gauteng Province
- 17 March 2018: The Second Chance Matric Support Programme Roadshow will be taking place in Witbank, Mpumalanga Province
- 20 March 2018: The Second Chance Matric Support Programme Roadshow will be taking place in Upington, Northern Cape 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 at the Maslow Time Square Menlyn 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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