



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



NEWSLETTER

Minister Motshekga to honour exceptional districts and schools through the Annual National Education Excellence Awards



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, will be honouring hard working Districts and schools during the 5th Annual National Education Excellence Awards on 06 April 2018 at the Maslow Time Square in Menlyn Pretoria, Gauteng Province to inspire others to strive for improvement and excellence in learning outcomes.

Last year's Awards were hosted at the Capital Menlyn Maine Hotel in Pretoria on 07 April 2017. The top prizes received were the International Study Tour to Finland, jointly funded by the DBE and ETDP SETA and the IT Solution for Schools from Axiz. Other prizes that were received by the winning Districts and schools included Certificates of Excellence, accommodation vouchers, trophies, trolley libraries, laptops and prize money. These prizes were made available courtesy of several partners which included Room to Read, Sky Net, Nexus Travel, the Rotary Club of Johannesburg, Protea Marriot Hotel, AVBOB, Travel With Flair and IT Master Information Technology Consultants.



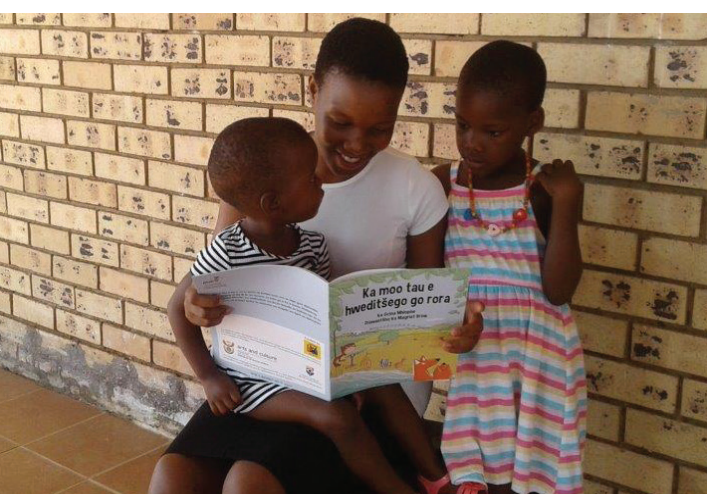
The Awards were introduced in 2014 with a particular focus on the work being done by Districts. The South African education system continues to deliver quality education to multitudes of learners through the 24,000 schools and 70 Districts in all nine provinces. Despite the enormity of the task to provide quality public education cascaded through Districts and schools, as indicated in the *Action Plan to 2019: Towards the Realization of Schooling 2030*, which is aligned to the goals set out in the *National Development Plan 2030*, the excellent work done by District Directors, school principals and teachers, has indeed brought about a paradigm shift within the education sector.

Thabo Mofutsanya District from the Free State Province, under the leadership of the then Acting District Director, Ms Lindiwe Mabaso, scooped the most prizes in the various categories of last year's Awards. The Province emerged as the top performing province during the 2016 NSC Examinations Results.

The Awards are a critical initiative to acknowledge the excellent work done by various District Officials, who firmly guide schools to adhere to the core business of the schooling system, which is to deliver quality learning and teaching.



Parents to prioritise reading time



At the recent *Read to Lead Campaign* roadshow, which was held in Apel, Sekhukhune Education District in the Limpopo Province, parents were urged to prioritise reading time with their families as reading is one of the ways children can become informed citizens.

The *Read to Lead* roadshows are a means of ensuring that Minister Motshekga's message on the importance of motivating children to make reading a lifestyle choice, reaches all corners of South Africa. If parents read to children on a daily basis, children will associate reading and books with closeness, caring and happiness. They develop a love for books that is likely to last throughout their lives and will provide them with a head start once they commence school.

Addressing parents at the roadshow, Mr Enoch Rabotapi, Acting Chief Director for Education Human Resource Development at the DBE, said "Children do as they see, not as they are told. If there is no reading culture at home it is unlikely that those children will possess a love of reading. If they see us as parents reading, they will follow our example". He also encouraged parents to buy their children books as gifts instead of fancy gadgets with no educational value.

Officials from the Limpopo Department of Education were also in attendance, with a representative saying, "How many of us ensure that our children are able to read with understanding? It is important that you discuss what was read with your child to confirm that they actually understood what they were reading".

The DBE delivered a variety of books to the community to use as a foundation to start their own library. The community was encouraged to donate more books, new or used, so as to grow their library collection.

For more tips on how to get children to read, visit:

<https://www.education.gov.za/Programmes/Read2Lead/Read2LeadParents.aspx>

DBE and PEISA to host fourth symposium as part of Physical Education Month



Education experts and Physical Education stakeholders will converge in Kimberley in the Northern Cape Province from 06 to 07 April 2018 for the Physical Education Symposium to discuss various issues around the *Physical Education Conceptual Framework* for South African schools. The annual symposia serve as a platform for engagement amongst various stakeholders, including the DBE, educators, researchers, content developers, Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), sport and recreation partners, as well as the Physical Education Institute of South Africa (PEISA) to strengthen Physical Education in schools. All the input received during the Symposium will play a critical role in strengthening learner wellbeing.

During the 2018 Physical Education Symposium, the DBE, PEISA and the Northern Cape Department of Education will be hosting the first ever Physical Education Teacher Awards in recognition for excellence in the teaching of Physical Education.

UNESCO Quality Physical Education (QPE) Co-ordinator and head of PEISA, Mr Norman Mphake, said: “Our learners need to be afforded the opportunity to participate in curriculum orientated physical education lessons. We cannot afford to negotiate around the right for children to have access to Quality Physical Education”.

The UNESCO - QPE project is a significant undertaking that will form part of the National Physical Education Implementation Plan. This National Plan, which serves as a sector guide for supporting the instruction of Curriculum Orientated Physical Education, was adopted at the second annual Physical Education Symposium held from 01 to 02 April 2016.

Physical Education plays an integral role in dealing with various issues such as obesity, overweight, stress, as well as heart related diseases. Learners therefore need to be educated about Physical Education and become active participants to lead a healthy lifestyle. The annual symposia, is central to a series of established physical education advocacy and sector mobilisation campaigns to be held as part of the DBE-PEISA annual calendar, including being an integral part of the national Physical Education Month and Physical Education Day celebrations, observed annually from 06 April to 10 May.

Roadshow on the implementation of the National Policy on HIV, STIs and TB in schools hits Cape Town



The Western Cape Provincial Advocacy Workshop on the DBE *National Policy on HIV, STIs and TB* for all Learners, Educators, School Support Staff and Officials in all Primary and Secondary Schools took place at the Cape Teaching and Leadership Institute (CTLI) in Kuils River, Cape Town from 26 to 27 March 2018. The DBE commenced with advocacy and training workshops with key stakeholders during February 2018 in the Limpopo Province. Dr Glynis Schreuder, Senior Curriculum Planner at the Western Cape Education Department (WCED), welcomed participants, stakeholders and officials to the Advocacy Workshop and advised stakeholders to take this mandate very seriously in order for it to reach its desired outcome. Ms Colleen Herman, Clinical Operations Manager at the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation, delivered a thought-provoking presentation. The Foundation aims to attract young people to adopt healthy life choices; empower young women to protect themselves; educate young mothers to protect their unborn children; and support young people living with HIV on long term treatment.

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.

The provision of Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services to schools is one of the key levers in the Policy and will be provided within the context of the law. As per the *Children's Act*, the provision of SRH services will be made available to learners 12 years and older as they can consent to health and SRH services. The provision of quality Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) has been identified as a game changer to accelerate HIV prevention. The Department is responsible for ensuring that age-appropriate sexuality education is provided to learners through a developmentally-appropriate curriculum, delivered through Life Skills/Life Orientation. The Policy will be implemented across the national, provincial, district and school levels of the sector.

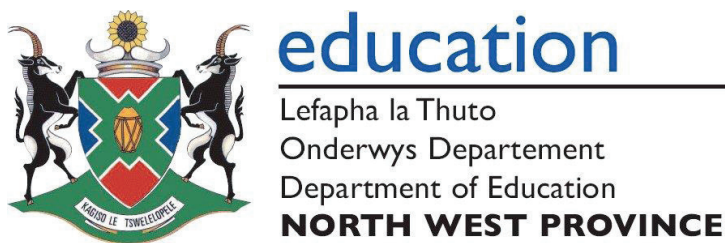
Regional Round-up

Eastern Cape Province



The Nelson Mandela and OR Tambo coastal education Districts in the Eastern Cape Province have been identified as high poverty areas with escalating rates of HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis (TB), learner pregnancy, drug and alcohol abuse, as well as other social and health barriers amongst young women and girls which impact directly on drop-out rates. Due to the lack of resources, the Eastern Cape Department of Education has intervened through global funding and appointed Kheth'impilo as the implementing agent for the *Young Women and Girls Project* to assist with intervention programmes in identified schools. Through the Kheth'Impilo programme, Learner Support Agents were appointed to assist with social and health issues; qualified nursing staff have been appointed to deal with health-related illnesses as per the Integrated School Health Programme (ISHP); and social workers have been appointed to deal with learners with social behaviour challenges. The *Integrated Schools Health Policy* (ISHP) document is the guiding document for the implementation of the health programmes in public schools as it provides guidelines for schools and parents on the Programme.

North West Province



The North West Education and Sport Development MEC, Mr Sello Lehari, condemned the burning of two schools in Madibogopan and Molelema villages due to community protest action. On 23 March 2018, an administration block, a mobile classroom and the strong room with computers and books at the G.S. Phoi Secondary School in Madibogopan Village were burnt down. Learners have not been attending school for a period of over six weeks due to community strike action. On 24 March 2018, the Molelema Primary school in Molelema Village near Taung was also burnt down damaging an administration block and the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) kitchen. In the Greater Taung Sub-District, approximately 19 out of 23 schools have been closed for almost two weeks due to protest action in the area. This has severely affected learning and teaching in the affected areas.

Western Cape Province



School Governing Body (SGB) elections are continuing across the country during the month of March 2018. The Western Cape Education Department (WCED) therefore reminded principals that they are official representatives of the Head of the WCED whilst serving on the SGB, and must ensure that they fully facilitate the SGB handover process to the newly elected members. The WCED has therefore issued a circular that introduces guidelines for the handover process from the outgoing to the newly elected SGB. The principal is obliged to ensure that there are adequate administrative measures in place aimed at sustaining the administrative and records management processes. The principal must facilitate the handover process which must take place within 14 days of the first meeting of the new SGB. A handover certificate, signed by both the incoming and outgoing chairpersons, must be completed and kept safely at the school. After the elections, the WCED will provide SGBs with comprehensive training and support.

Upcoming Events

- 01 – 31 March 2018: School Governing Body (SGB) Elections
- 06 April 2018: The National Education Excellence Awards will be hosted at the Maslow Time Square Menlyn in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 06 – 07 April 2018: The Annual Physical Education Symposium will be hosted in partnership with the Physical Education Institute of South Africa (PEISA) in Kimberley, Northern Cape Province
- 06 April – 10 May 2018: Physical Education Month
- 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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