


**basic education**

 Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**THUTO**

**NEWSLETTER**

# The Annual National Education Excellence Awards - awarding excellence in Districts and Schools



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, honoured hard working Districts and schools during the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual National Education Excellence Awards that took place at the Maslow Time Square in Menlyn Pretoria, Gauteng Province on 06 April 2018, saying: “It gives me immense pleasure to host the Department’s 5<sup>th</sup> Annual National Education Excellence Awards. I introduced these Awards in 2014 to recognise and celebrate the amazing work done by Districts and schools. When the Awards were initiated during 2014, the focus was only on the work of Districts to complement the National Teaching Awards (NTAs). It was my firm belief at the time, and still is, that our Districts hold the education system together. They are one of the most vital cogs in the education management infrastructure and through them we rise or fall. During 2017, I decided to broaden the lens and include excellence in schools. If Districts hold the system together, schools are where it all happens and where the tyre hits the tar. They are our last line of defence,” said Minister Motshekga.

Basic Education Deputy Minister, Mr Enver Surty, congratulated the recipients of the Awards for their outstanding performance, saying: “The Department is proud to celebrate the immense value you add to the Education Sector’s pursuit of quality. It is very important to us that our children receive the education that they deserve so that they can be equipped to play their role in our country’s quest for accelerated economic development. Education is an important lever to breaking the cycle of poverty and inequalities”.

“The Forum of Districts has become an incredible platform to share best practice and strategies that work - a professional learning community that is developing organically. Through this Forum, the Sector has ensured that District Directors, who are at the coal face of education delivery, meet and reflect on critical policy together, share best practice and together plan for the improvement of the delivery of education throughout South Africa. Minister Motshekga, who spearheaded the formation of this Forum, and Deputy Minister Surty attend each of these meetings, engaging and guiding delegates. There is no doubt that this Forum has added immense value to the business of education and has established a working model for a professional community of practice with peers sharing best practice and growing together,” explained Ms Palesa Tyobeka, DDG for Planning and Delivery Oversight.

## Basic Education salutes top achievers

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. The Annual National Education Excellence Awards acknowledges 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. The winners of the 2018 Awards are:

**Districts:**

- Top Performing District: Highest Percentage Pass: 2016 NSC (Up to 400 schools)  
Fezile Dabi, Free State Province, Mr VH Chuta;
- Top Performing District: Highest Percentage Pass: 2016 NSC (Over 400 schools)  
Thabo Mofutsanyana, Free State Province, Ms FL Mabaso;
- Top Performing District: Highest Overall Quality Score: (Up to 400 schools)  
Tshwane South, Gauteng Province, Ms H Kekana;
- Top Performing District: Highest Overall Quality Score: (Over 400 schools)  
Thabo Mofutsanyana, Free State Province, Ms FL Mabaso;
- Most Improved District: Weighted inclusive basket of performance indicators:  
iLembe District, KwaZulu-Natal Province, Dr L Madondo;
- Top Performing District: A focus on Bachelor Passes (2015 – 2017):  
Umgungundlovu District, KwaZulu-Natal Province, Mr S Mabinza;
- Top Performing District: A focus on Mathematics and Physical Science (2015 – 2017):  
ZF Mgcawu District, Northern Cape Province, Mr G March;
- Excellence in District Leadership and Management:  
Vhembe District, Limpopo Province, Dr NG Rambiyana; and
- Excellence in Support for Improving Primary Schools Learning Outcomes:

Bojanala District, North West Province, Ms K Mosala

**Schools:**

- Top Performing Public Ordinary School (Quintile 1):  
Mathunjwa Secondary School, Zululand, KwaZulu-Natal Province
- Top Performing Public Ordinary School (Quintile 2):  
Moreko High School, Sekhukhune, Limpopo Province;
- Top Performing Public Ordinary School (Quintile 3):  
Dendron Secondary School, Capricorn, Limpopo Province;
- Top Performing Public Ordinary School (Quintile 4):  
Menzi High School, Umlazi, KwaZulu-Natal Province;
- Top Performing Public Ordinary School (Quintile 5):  
Rustenburg Girls High School, Metro Central, North West Province; and
- Most Improved Full-Service School:  
Manthe Primary School, Dr RSM, North West Province



**Special Ministerial Awards** were also presented to:

- Alfred Nzo East District, Eastern Cape Province; and
- Mr S Mokgobo, Free State Province

The top prizes received were International Study Tours to Birmingham and France, jointly funded by the DBE and ETDP SETA. Other prizes that were received by the winning Districts and schools included E trolleys, 3D printers, Certificates of Excellence, trophies, accommodation vouchers, trolley libraries, and prize money. These prizes were made available courtesy of several partners which included Tando 3D, Nexus Travel, Protea Marriot Hotel, Travel with Flair and SAA.

Congratulations to all the winners!

## 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>

## AgriEd Imbizo to promote Agricultural skills in rural communities





The Department of Basic Education (DBE), in partnership with the nine Provincial Education Departments (PEDs), will host an AgriEd Imbizo on 19 April 2018, to lobby for support from education stakeholders on undertakings aimed at improving quality learning and teaching in Agricultural Schools. The Imbizo seeks to create an opportunity to share the strategic direction of Government whilst discussing possible ways to improve agriculture education in school communities. The Imbizo will also be used as an opportunity to reflect on international and national models to address challenges faced by agricultural education globally.

The *National Development Plan* (NDP) recognises a fundamental role that education plays in rural development and in realising the vision of the eradication of poverty in rural areas. During 2017, the DBE established an Agriculture Task Team comprising of Mathematics, Science and Technology (MST) Subject Specialists. The Team uses a research and consultative based approach to provide strategic direction to agriculture education to respond to the country's changing labour market, socio-economic needs and rural contexts. One of the main tasks of the Team is to develop a concept document on a self-sufficient Agricultural Model School for learners from poor socio-economic backgrounds.

Director for Rural Education from the DBE, Dr Phumzile Langa, said that, "According to the Task Team, equipping young people with agricultural and entrepreneurial skills is a critical facet of farming and agriculture because it affords an opportunity for young people to invest in the growth of the economy. Thus far, the Team has conducted consultative visits to eight Agricultural Schools in the country to review models and practices and to discuss challenges and the envisaged support from the sector, targeting teaching staff, farming staff and learners".

Mr Mbasane, the School Governing Body (SGB) Chairperson of Tyelimhlophe Agricultural High School in the Alfred Nzo West District in the Eastern Cape Province, indicated that working with traditional leaders is a way of strengthening agriculture in rural communities because they own the land. "Agricultural Schools play a crucial role in society; they should be utilised as reliable mechanisms to fight poverty. Our Chief donated the land to the people of Mganu Village to build a school. The school specifically focuses on the production of meat and vegetable products which are supplied to the local market and to retailers," said Mr Mbasane.



## Quality Physical Education in action





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 2018 Symposium will be hosted by the Northern Cape Department of Education (NCED), targeting Life Skills and Life Orientation curriculum Education Specialists.

Of significance during this year's Symposium is that the DBE, NCED and the Physical Education Institute of South Africa (PEISA) will host the first ever Physical Education Teacher Awards in recognition of excellence in the teaching of Physical Education. The identified *winners* have been through a rigorous, transparent and thorough adjudication process, and will be acknowledged at the awards ceremony on 07 April 2018.

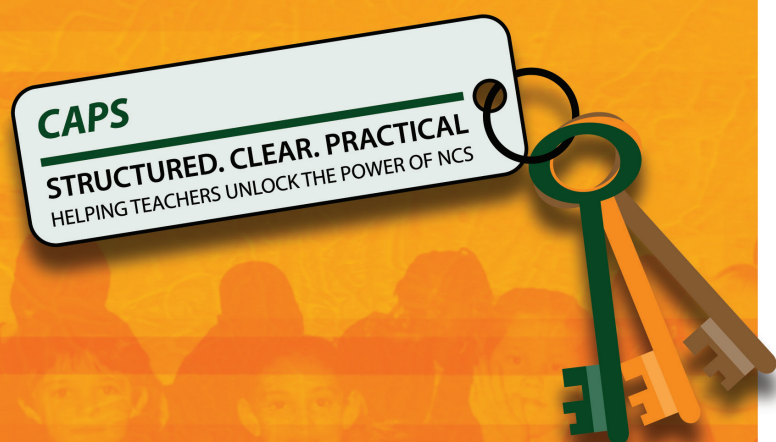
The annual symposia are central to a series of established Physical Education advocacy and sector mobilisation campaigns, including being an integral part of the national Physical Education Month and Day celebrations observed from 06 April to 10 May. The theme for the 2018 Physical Education Symposium is: "Quality Physical Education in Action!" In keeping with the annual Physical Education Day celebrations on 10 May, South Africa will again attempt to set a new Guinness World Record for the most people star jumping simultaneously at multiple venues for two consecutive minutes.

UNESCO Quality Physical Education (QPE) National Co-ordinator and head of PEISA, Mr Norman Mphake, affirmed that in order for society to respect the teaching profession and in particular the teaching of Physical Education: "Both departmental officials and school based educators must continually work towards protecting the integrity and dignity of the teaching profession. This can be achieved if all parties involved commit to give due consideration to existing and all-encompassing sector plans, policies and legislative frameworks, such as the *South African Council for Educators Act of 2000*".

## Report on the Implementation Evaluation of CAPS released

### *National Curriculum Statement (NCS)*

#### *Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement*



#### **FOUNDATION PHASE GRADES 1 – 3**

The DBE, in collaboration with the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME), commissioned an implementation evaluation of the current South African curriculum, which is encapsulated in the National Curriculum Statement Grade R to 12 and the Curriculum and Policy Statements (CAPS), which has been rolled out since 2011. This evaluation was completed by an independent service provider and has recently been made available on both DBE and DPME websites. The purpose of the evaluation was to determine how well the new curriculum has been implemented and how to strengthen its implementation. The Department requested the evaluators to consider whether teachers are properly equipped to implement CAPS, whether the systems supporting the implementation of CAPS are working and to identify other areas of implementation that the Department will need to strengthen.

The evaluation used various research methods, including a review of policy documents and research literature, interviews with teachers, principals and government officials as well as a set of case studies in 24 schools in four provinces: the Eastern Cape, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga.

Click on the below link for the additional information:

<https://www.education.gov.za/Resources/Reports.aspx>

## Regional Round-up

## Gauteng Province



“We are convinced that there is a syndicate targeting our schools. We call upon police to conduct a thorough investigation and arrest those responsible,” said Gauteng MEC, Mr Panyaza Lesufi. This follows a recent incident where approximately seven laptops, nine computers and nutrition stock were stolen from Dr WF Nkomo High School in Atteridgeville, Tshwane. Last week, criminals also broke into Masizane Primary School, Thohoyandou Primary School and Flavius Mareka Secondary School in Atteridgeville. MEC Lesufi expressed his disappointed about these incidents, adding that these criminal acts deny learners their right to education and called upon the community to assist in protecting schools.

## Northern Cape Province



The Northern Cape Department of Education is currently hosting annual Autumn Camps from 03-06 April 2018. The Autumn Camp Programme is specifically designed to enhance the performance of Grade 12 learners in schools that underperformed in the focus subjects in the 2017 National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations. The Programme will consist of a series of daily presentations and tutorials and learners will also be given notes, exercises and suggested daily solutions on the topics covered, as well as past Grade 12 examination papers. Life Orientation sessions on Life Skills and Career Pathing will also be included in the programme at the Camp for Top Achieving Learners. It is expected that 2,000 learners from 65 schools across the Province will attend 8 Residential Camps. The Talent Development Autumn Camp for Top Achieving Grade 11 and 12 learners is conducted in partnership with the Department of Science and Technology and the University of Stellenbosch. The Camp will take place at Kimberley Girls High School and will focus on Mathematics and Science for approximately 80 learners who were identified to attend. The Province is confident that the Autumn Camps Programme will contribute to an improvement in the overall learner academic performance and success rate of Grade 12 learners.

## Upcoming Events

- 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
- 13 April 2018: The launch of the DBE and Anglo American Education Programme partnership at the Ivory Park Secondary School in Tembisa, 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



**NDP 2030: one nation,  
ONE PLAN**

OUR FUTURE, MAKE IT WORK!