


basic education

 Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO

NEWSLETTER

Anglo American and DBE launch education programme to improve learner outcomes



On Friday, 13 April 2018, Anglo American South Africa (AASA) and the Department of Basic Education (DBE) launched a holistic education programme at Ivory Park Secondary School, Tembisa to improve learners' outcomes in schools in proximity to Anglo American's operations in South Africa. During the launch, Basic Education Minister Mrs Angie Motshekga and Anglo American South Africa's Deputy Chairman Mr Norman Mbazima, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to officialise the partnership agreement.

The Programme will focus on 100 Early Childhood Development (ECD) sites and a "Whole School" systemic approach for 100 selected primary and secondary schools. To reach the five-year programme goals (2018-2022) and track progress, ongoing monitoring and evaluation systems have been embedded in the Programme. The Programme has been developed in partnership with the DBE and complements the Department's 2019 Action Plan: Towards the Realisation of Schooling 2030, which details strategies that aim to improve the performance of South Africa's schooling system.

"It is pleasing that today's handover occurs during the year that marks the Centenary Celebrations of Tata Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. We shall use this historic occasion to unite, rebuild and renew the basic education sector, so that it can leapfrog into the 4th Industrial Revolution. Madiba dedicated his life to the betterment of the children of South Africa," said Minister Motshekga.

"It is Government's apex priority to ensure that public schooling thrives in this country. In terms of infrastructure development, we are keen to provide state-of-the-art learning facilities which will optimise the chances of success for every South African learner. It is therefore heartening that Anglo American – through this Programme, intends to touch the lives of our children. We are thrilled that part of the investment is in Early Childhood Development, which provides a solid foundation for schooling, thus ensuring success in higher grades. The long-term benefits include the raising of well-adjusted and fully-participating South Africans," the Minister concluded.

"This Programme is one of the first initiatives under Anglo American's Sustainability Strategy, which was launched last month. We work together with our key partners and stakeholders to unlock the sustainable value that our resources represent for our shareholders, the communities and countries in which we operate, and for society at large. Anglo American is re-imagining mining to improve people's lives," said Mr Mbazima, during the launch of the partnership.

Taking democracy to the classroom



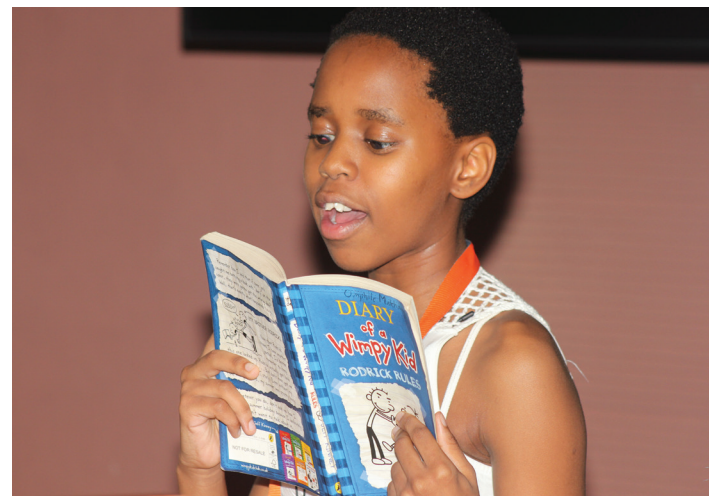
The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) will once again be partnering with the DBE to officially launch the 6th annual Schools Democracy Week (SDW) programme on 17 April 2018 at the KwaMhlanga Showgrounds, Nkangala District, Mpumalanga Province.

The aim of the SDW programme is to educate learners on democratic values and electoral processes. The SDW programme seeks to encourage, educate and empower learners to understand and participate in the democratic processes of the country and ultimately contribute to the deepening of constitutional democracy. The first SDW was held in 2013.

The programme will roll out in selected public schools throughout South Africa from 23 to 27 April 2018 during the Freedom Day and the Nelson Mandela Centenary Celebrations.

The collaboration between the IEC and the DBE is also intended to support the drive to increase youth registration as well as to educate youth, in particular first-time voters on voter registration and voting. The long-term objective is to entrench active participation as a fundamental civic responsibility, and to institutionalise and infuse electoral democracy content into the formal school curriculum at all levels.

Strengthening reading in African languages



In an attempt to strengthen the teaching of reading in African Languages, the Department of Basic Education (DBE) will be hosting a National Reading Workshop from 18 to 19 April 2018 in Pretoria with the purpose of developing a National Framework on *How to Teach Reading* in the early grades. This National Foundation Phase African Languages Reading Workshop will bring together the PAN South African Language Board (PANSALB), reading experts and provincial language specialists and African language teachers who will engage with research studies on the gaps in pedagogy; availability of quality reading materials; and teacher training and support in teaching reading in African languages.

The *Southern and Eastern Africa Consortium for Monitoring Educational Quality* (SACMEQ) and the *Progress in International Reading and Literacy Study* (PIRLS) confirm that learner performance is much higher in English and Afrikaans as compared to the African languages in Grades 4 to 5. The findings of the 2016 PIRLS report concludes that Grade 4 learners who took the assessment in the 11 official languages, as well as the Grade 5 learners who took the assessment in English, Afrikaans and isiZulu scored below the international benchmark. The language issue is a key factor that impacts on reading and literacy outcomes. Research concludes that the benefit of home language instruction in the early years is fundamental for the learner to make the transition from Home Language to English.

The main outcome of the Workshop is to develop a framework for the conceptualisation of a draft Reading Manual that will address reading approaches in African languages in the Foundation Phase. The format of the Workshop will include plenary sessions and commission breakaways. The workshop that will be hosted under the theme: “Laying a Solid Foundation towards Reading with Understanding”.

The National Deworming Programme ensures bright achievers



In accordance with the World Health Organisation (WHO), the control and elimination of intestinal worms or Soil Transmitted Helminth (STH) in high-risk groups should be conducted regularly. The nutritional impairment caused by STH is recognised to have a significant impact on the cognitive development, growth and physical development, as well as educational advancement of children. Deworming can therefore improve the benefits of meals provided to schools through the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP).

The National Deworming Programme is implemented by the NSNP and Integrated School Health Programmes (ISHP). The ISHP is a joint programme of the Departments of Basic Education, Health and Social Development intended to improve children's health; reduce health barriers to learning; assist learners to stay in school; and perform to the best of their abilities. The Health Services Package for the ISHP includes health education (such as how to lead a healthy lifestyle), health screening (such as screening for vision, hearing, oral health and tuberculosis) and onsite services (such as deworming and immunisation).

The National School Deworming Programme has been conducted since 2016, with more than 9.6 million learners being dewormed cumulatively through a donation of Mebendazole tablets by the WHO through Johnson and Johnson. Deworming will be done during the second quarter of 2018, targeting approximately 11 million 5 to 14 year old children (Grades R to 7) as they have the highest prevalence of worms.

The successful implementation of the Programme is dependent on close collaboration between the Departments of Basic Education, Health and Social Development. The collaboration of parents and educators are also essential. Parents are required to provide consent for their children to be dewormed.

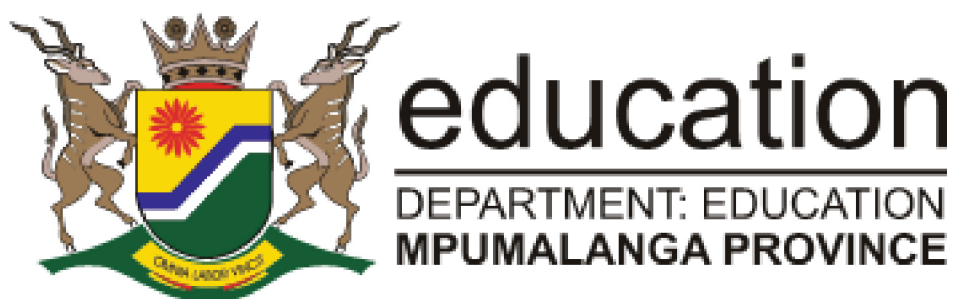
Deworming learners is a safe, low cost intervention that can assist learners to perform at their peak. Evidence has shown that deworming leads to improved health status, increased productivity, improved educational performance, reduced absenteeism and decreased health care expenditure.

*References: South African Medical Research Council. 2007. Learn about worms! Tygerberg
World Health Organisation. Soil-transmitted helminth infections: Fact sheet No 366, May 2015*



Provincial Round-up

Mpumalanga Province



As public schools, this week, re-opened for the second term, the MEC for Education, Mr Sibusiso Malaza, paid a courtesy visit to Bonginsimbi Secondary School (Emalahleni Local Municipality) on 10 April 2018 where he observed the hoisting of the South African Flag at half-mast to pay tribute to the late Mrs Winnie Nomzamo Madikizela Mandela. The MEC also used the occasion to welcome all teachers, non-teaching staff and learners back to school. The second activation took place at the Mpumalanga Regional Training Trust (MRTT) where the MEC used the opportunity to take stock of the training programmes that are geared at empowering the out of school youth with skills in plumbing, carpentry, construction, welding and electrical skills. The last visit was at the OR Tambo Mathematics, Science and Technology Academy where the MEC was updated on the progress relating to the improvement of the intake and the pass rate in these subjects.

KwaZulu-Natal



On 10 April 2018, the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education delivered a fleet of busses to shuttle pupils in the rural farming community of Nquthu to and from school. Spokesperson for the provincial Department of Education, Mr Kwazi Mthethwa, said that approximately 2,900 learners will benefit from the service. Last year, the KwaZulu-Natal Education and Transport Departments agreed to work together to provide a bus service to deserving schools in the area no later than 01 April 2018, in line with the court order issued by the Pietermaritzburg High Court.

Upcoming Events

- 06 April – 10 May 2018: Physical Education Month
- 17 April 2018: The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) will be partnering with the DBE to officially launch the 6th annual Schools Democracy Week (SDW) programme at the KwaMhlanga Showgrounds, Nkangala District, Mpumalanga Province
- 18 – 19 April 2018: The DBE will be hosting a National Foundation Phase African Languages Reading Workshop in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 19 April 2018: A Lunchbox Lekgotla seminar will be taking place at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 23 – 25 April 2018: The DBE will be hosting a General Education and Training (GET) Assessment Lekgotla to discuss issues relating to assessment in Grades 1 – 9 in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 23 – 27 April 2018: Schools Democracy Week
- 09 May 2018: Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, will be delivering her annual Budget Vote Debate in Parliament in Cape Town, Western Cape 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
- 26 – 29 June 2018: The annual ABC Motsepe Schools Choral Eisteddfod will be taking place at the Rhema Church in Randburg, 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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