



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



NEWSLETTER

DBE reviews assessment methods in the General Education and Training band



The first General Education and Training (GET) Assessment Lekgotla was hosted at the Department of Basic Education (DBE) in Pretoria from 23-25 April 2018. The DBE organized the Lekgotla to draw on best practices from various academic intellectuals to improve the assessment landscape during the early years of learning at primary school level. Other objectives included discussing reliable mechanisms for strengthening the administration of internal school-based assessment, the implementation of Systemic Evaluation and the exploration of a framework for a General Education Certificate (GEC) examination.

Chief Director for National Assessment and Public Examinations, Dr Rufus Poliah, delivered a presentation on the *Current Assessment Landscape and its Challenges*, which was followed by a robust discussion by academic researchers from the University of the Witwatersrand, the Tshwane University of Technology and the University of South Africa (Unisa), Teacher Unions and Provincial Education Departments (PEDs). Participants were expected to analyse existing forms of assessments such as Summative, Formative and Systemic Assessment. The three assessment components are a cornerstone in the facilitation of quality learning and teaching in the Foundation and Intermediate Phases.

Formative Assessment, including diagnostic assessment forms, is utilised by teachers during the process of learning and teaching. The Summative Assessment is implemented to test learners on a quarterly basis and forms part and parcel of School Based Assessment (SBA). The Systemic Assessment is implemented to monitor the performance of the education system and to identify trends. Dr Poliah indicated that the Lekgotla will play a crucial role in the consolidation of strategies aimed at empowering teachers in the implementation of assessment components.

Chief Director for Curriculum Implementation and Monitoring, Dr Suren Govender, mentioned that during 2017, the DBE conducted a GET SBA audit in all provinces to gather information on the quality assurance of GET SBA, which will be utilised in guiding processes relating to the development of a national policy. "This year, the DBE will be strengthening and finalising Section 4 of the Curriculum Assessment Policy Statements (CAPS) to give more consistent and uniform information on assessment across all subjects. Teachers therefore need to be capacitated to be in a better position to develop quality assessment tasks or activities," said Dr Govender.

During the Lekgotla, there were critical discussions and input made on the introduction of the Grade 1 readiness assessment and critical thinking skills in the Foundation Phase. The DBE is currently investigating best practices in the area of early learning assessment. Apart from the plenary discussions, the Lekgotla also consisted of three Commissions, which focused on SBA, Systemic Evaluation and the General Education Certificate. During the Commissions, all participants were expected to guide the sector on the critical components of assessment tasks that need to be adopted in improving quality learning outcomes.

Click on the below link for the full article: [Reviews of Assessment Methods in the GET Band](#)



The importance of assessments in Early Childhood Development (ECD)



The Department of Basic Education (DBE), in collaboration with the Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) is hard at work to ensure effective learning in the early years of children in South Africa. Director for Early Childhood Development, Ms Marie-Louise Samuels, confirms that addressing issues of assessments in the education sector is a step in the right direction, indicating that a lot of work needs to be done in the first 5 years of a child's life before they enter the formal education system.

"Approximately 80% of brain growth happens during the first 5 years of life. Reading during these years offer benefits that last a lifetime. Assessment is a process of gathering evidence about children, their development, and personal learning styles. Assessment for young children is an ongoing, informal and diagnostic process. When assessing children, practitioners are able to monitor the holistic development of children in their care. It is through assessment that backlogs and omitted developmental milestones are identified. Assessment plays a major role in the early identification of barriers to learning and development. The ultimate purpose of all assessment in ECD programmes is to support growth, learning and the development of children," she explained.

The DBE has also developed *the National Curriculum Framework (NCF)* to ensure that children in different settings receive quality ECD programmes. The NCF is a working document, which provides guidance to parents and other caregivers on how to create environments that are responsive to learning and development. It is structured around the following six Early Learning and Development Areas (ELDAs): Wellbeing, Identity, Communication, Exploring Mathematics, Creativity and Knowledge and Understanding of the World. The ELDAs set out the knowledge, understanding, practical skills, attitudes and behaviour that children need as citizens in diverse contexts for school and later in life.

Formative assessment instruments in Mathematics, Science and Technology



During March 2018, Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, approved the *Mathematics, Science and Technology (MST) Framework* developed to transform the manner in which Mathematics should be taught in public schools. “The Framework has implications for the sector in relation to Curriculum, Assessment, Learning and Teaching Support Materials (LTSM), Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Teacher development and the Language of Learning and Teaching (LoLT),” said Chief Education Specialist for Mathematics, Science and Technology (MST), Ms Elspeth Khembo.

“In line with the Framework, formative assessment serves as an integral component in the learning process. It can be used as a means for tracking learner progress and ensuring high-stakes test preparedness, but it can also play a significant role in the process of changing instructional practices. The teacher’s ability to know what to teach next and how to adapt instruction in the light of evidence is critical to effective formative assessment. Formative assessment instruments should be carefully designed to provide intermittent markers at strategic points in the curriculum implementation. A formative assessment test should be a set of carefully designed questions to address learner misconceptions and a tool to address learning targets. These tests should be aligned with the Mathematics curriculum but should also test the critical aspects of a topic, drawing on the basic dimensions of the Framework, for example conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, own strategies and reasoning,” she said.

Focussing on reading with understanding as we countdown to Mandela Day

The countdown to Nelson Mandela Day commenced on 23 April 2018 at Constitutional Hill in Johannesburg with various activities set to commemorate the late global icon, who would have turned 100 years old on 18 July, 2018 had he lived.

Speaking at the launch of the countdown, Mandela Foundation CEO, Mr Sello Hatang, urged citizens, and the youth in particular, to actively engage with the legacy of the late Former President. Hatang added that Mandela Day is not just about 18 July; people should aim to bring about sustainable social change in the lives of others throughout the year, especially when 63% of South African children are still living in poverty.

The Learning and Teaching Support Material (LTSM) Policy, Development and Innovation Directorate exhibited during the launch at Constitutional Hill. The focus of the DBE exhibition was on the *Read to Lead Campaign*. The aim of the Campaign is to improve the reading abilities of all learners to ensure that they read with understanding to access career opportunities for a brighter future.

“During the Centenary Celebrations of Tata Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, we will 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 earlier this year.

Provincial Round-up

KwaZulu-Natal Province



education

Department:
Education

PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

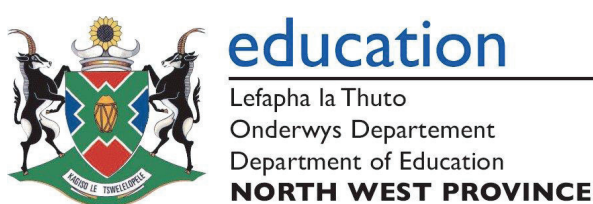
A two day informative Career Expo aimed at empowering the youth was held at the Zululand Business Chamber of Commerce in Richards Bay from 23 to 24 April 2018. The exhibition targeted 7,000 learners from the King Cetshwayo area. Considering the high rate of unemployment confronting South African youth, career exhibitions present valuable opportunities for learners to obtain information on various careers and entrepreneurship prospects. The Expo also included information on entrepreneurship, how to start a business, funding opportunities and various skills programmes that are available to learners.

Eastern Cape Province



Learners at Vulindlela Secondary School became violent and stoning officials and school. Police were called but the situation is out of control. Learners do not want to listen to anyone except SG. The school is really under attack. The issue is about the shortage of teachers (10 PL1). We managed to get 5 for today but learners didn't give us a chance to convey that to them. All stakeholders were part of the delegation. The school was nearly burned down but police managed to overpower learners. More police force are deployed. Now learners are out of the school premises. Police are vigilant and they're around. The school is closed until further notice.

North West



The North West Education and Sport Development MEC, Sello Lehari has appealed to parents to allow learners to come back to school after the protracted protests experienced in Mafikeng and nearby villages. On 18 April 2018, Schools in Montshiwa near Mafikeng were disrupted; learners were chased out of school by the unknown mobs. Teaching and learners was extremely affected as protests stretched to many parts of the province. "As a department we are appealing from parents in the areas affected by protests to allow learners to come back to school. This quarter for education it is very short and learners have already lost three days of teaching and learning. We have been assured by safety departments that there is high police visibility in the affected areas. Parents are requested to only heed and respond to communication sent to them by school principals where their children attend schooling and not from unconfirmed sources", said MEC Lehari.

Northern Cape



The national strike had zero impact on learning & teaching in the Northern Cape except for the 7 schools in Frances Baard district (Kimberley) that are affected by the service delivery protests in the area.

Upcoming Events

- 06 April – 10 May 2018: Physical Education Month
- 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
- 27 May – 03 June 2018: Child Protection Week will be launched in the Eastern Cape 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
- 05 – 06 July 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 October 2018: The National Spelling Bee Championships will be hosted at the ZK Matthews Auditorium, Unisa 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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