



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



NEWSLETTER

Call for schools to register for the 2018 DBE Spelling Bee



A call is hereby made for all schools to encourage learners to participate in the 2018 National Spelling Bee Championships. This year's Championships will be taking place at the ZK Matthews Auditorium, UNISA, Pretoria, Gauteng Province on 06 October 2018. The Championships is co-ordinated in partnership with the SABC, UNISA (College of Human Sciences, Department of English Studies), the AVBOB Foundation and the Department of Arts and Culture (DAC).

All primary schools, including independent schools, from Grades 4 to 6, also known as the Intermediate Phase, are invited to register for participation in the Championships. Home Education learners and special schools are also welcome to participate.

The procedure for participation in the 2018 Spelling Bee is to complete the registration form, which must be stamped by the school and sent through to the provincial co-ordinator of the Spelling Bee. Parents of learners enrolled for Home Education are advised to request the principal of the nearest school to support and stamp the form for them. Upon receipt of the registration form in which names of the Intermediate Phase winners are entered, the provincial co-ordinator will organise a workshop for schools to explain the rules of the competition, as well as conduct elimination rounds up to provincial level.

The Spelling Bee is part of the *Read to Lead Campaign* aimed at encouraging learners to read and write with understanding. It is conducted in English, which is the language of learning and teaching of 86% of all learners in the country. The community and all literacy and language activists are requested to adopt and support schools that have registered for the competition in their areas. This support should, through school management, encourage learners who are taking part in the competition to excel, and those that have not as yet registered, to do so.

The closing date for the competition is 31 May 2018. Participation in the competition is free. For further enquiries, please contact Mr PJ Ngoepe: Sport and Enrichment on Tel: 012 357 3442 or e-mail: ngoepe.pj@dbe.gov.za

The 2018 Spelling Bee words and the registration form are also available on the home page of the Departmental website:

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

Jumping for healthy lifestyles during Physical Education Month



The UNESCO – Quality Physical Education (QPE) project is a significant undertaking that will form part of the *National Physical Education Implementation Plan*, which serves as a sector guide for supporting the instruction of Curriculum Orientated Physical Education. South African learners need to be afforded the opportunity to participate in Curriculum Orientated Physical Education lessons to strengthen general learner wellbeing.

Life Orientation: the Physical Education component, plays an integral role in addressing 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.

On 10 May 2018 at 08:00, in celebrating Physical Education Day, the Physical Education Institute of South Africa (PEISA) under the auspices of the DBE, will attempt to set a new world record for “the most people star jumping simultaneously at multiple venues for two consecutive minutes”. Schools will be required to synchronise their time in order to perform the 2 minute challenge simultaneously and to record themselves accordingly under appropriate supervision.

The Guinness World Records attempt is part of a series of established physical education advocacy and sector mobilisation campaigns held as part of the DBE-PEISA Physical Education Month and Physical Education Day celebrations, observed annually from 06 April to 10 May.

Click on the below link to view all relevant documentation about the Guinness World Records attempt:

<https://www.education.gov.za/Home/physicaleducation2018.aspx>

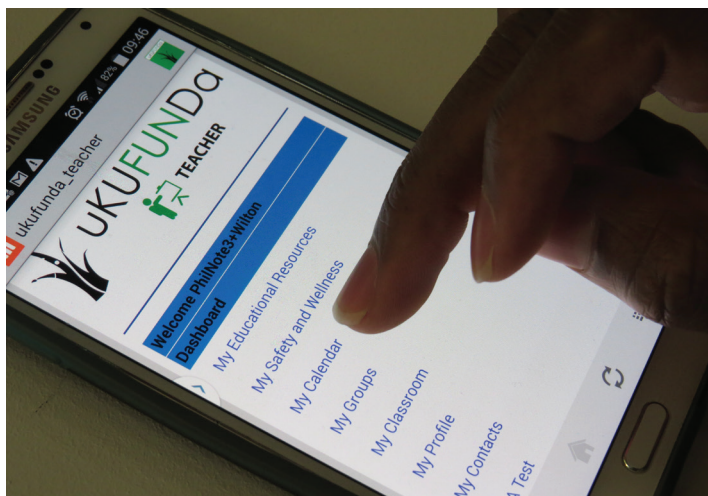
DBE partners with Vodacom to introduce ICTs to Provincial Teacher Centres



To tackle the Fourth Industrial Revolution head-on, it is important for officials within the education sector to sharpen their Information Communication and Technology (ICT) competencies and skills. For this reason, the DBE will be conducting training workshops for Teacher Centre Managers, E-Learning Specialists and administration staff at the Protea Hotel, OR Tambo International Airport from 07 to 10 May 2018.

The DBE has partnered with the Vodacom Foundation to provide ICT equipment and internet connectivity to 92 selected Teacher Centres in all nine provinces. The aim of the workshop is to take Teacher Centres to the next level with the integration of ICT resources in teaching the curriculum, as well as quality, in-depth training. An additional objective is to improve the effective use of equipment and software programmes for the centres to be utilised as hubs for digital skills, and to improve the management of these centres.

Owing to Vodacom's partnership, more than 300 officials who were involved in the management of Teacher Development, Provincial Teacher Development Institutes (PTDIs) and District Teacher Development Centres (DTDCs) in the Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) were trained during March to April 2016. Furthermore, Vodacom, in partnership with Microsoft and UNICEF, was one of the sponsors for the online digital Short Learning Programme (SLPs) on Managing and Leading Education through Technologies during 2016.



Compilation of Sanitation Audit Report in progress



In response to the directive from the President of the Republic of South Africa, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, that a plan providing details on the rapid eradication of sanitation challenges be developed and submitted, the Department of Basic Education (DBE) has, in collaboration with Provincial Education Departments (PEDs), finalised the rapid audit and the costing thereof.

The audit seeks to determine the extent of the challenge, with a focus on all schools without sanitation; the demolition of pit toilets where facilities have been provided; all existing pit toilets in the country; the provision of age appropriate seats for grade R learners in all schools; and schools with inadequate, unsafe or insufficient sanitation. In order to ensure interdepartmental collaboration during the process, the DBE conducted interdepartmental engagement meetings with National Treasury, the Department of Water and Sanitation, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, as well as the Water Research Commission.

According to the Director for Physical Planning and School Infrastructure, Mr Ramasedi Mafoko, all provinces played a crucial role in the compilation of the draft Infrastructure Audit Report, adding that, "On 06 April 2018, all provinces submitted their Audit Reports to the DBE for consolidation. The Audit, which will be accompanied by a costed plan, is now being verified and finalised and will be tabled during the Council of Education Ministers (CEM) meeting on 11 May 2018".

Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, convened an urgent CEM meeting at the Southern Sun, OR Tambo International Airport on 22 March 2018, to present a sector-wide response to sanitation and ablution in South African schools, and to ensure that the sector responds to President Cyril Ramaphosa's directives of providing an audit of sanitation facilities in schools. "We have, as a collective, looked inward and had to urgently assess the extent of delivery and provisioning of safe and adequate sanitation within our existing plans. This would entail reviewing our plans and working collaboratively with provinces to enhance and accelerate the provision of adequate and safe sanitation and ablution facilities. We already have an existing plan in place that is intended to eradicate these unsafe and inadequate toilets. We need to confirm the information we already have and fast track our existing plans. Our priority is safety," said Minister Motshekga.

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:

[NewsletterDGPvincialEngagements2018](#)

Provincial Round-up

KwaZulu-Natal Province



education

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PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Education, Mr Mthandeni Dlungwana, delivered his Budget Vote Speech on 03 May 2018 at the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature in Pietermaritzburg.

Western Cape Province



**Western Cape
Government**

Education

BETTER TOGETHER.

Ms Bronagh Casey has been appointed as the Western Cape Education Department's Director of Communications and assumed duty on 02 May 2018. The DBE congratulates Ms Casey on her appointment.

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
- 29 – 30 September 2018: The annual iNkosi Albert Luthuli Oral History Programme will be taking place at Freedom Park, 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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