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THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



NEWSLETTER

Deadline for mid-year examination registration extended to 18th February



Due to huge interest in the mid-year examination offering, the DBE has extended the registration deadline to 18 February 2019.

The Department has been inundated with requests from those who missed the 31 January deadline and still hope to register. Learners who are still hoping to register for the Amended Senior Certificate (ASC) examinations or the National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations need to visit their nearest district education office to register.

These examinations will sit in May/June 2019 and will provide learners with a second chance to obtain their matric certificate. This opportunity is available for learners who had previously failed their Matric; need to write one or two subjects to qualify for their Matric; or learners who want to improve their results. Learners who had previously dropped out of school and are now over 21 years of age need to present their Grade 9 results to qualify.

There are a number of study resources available through the SCMSPP to assist those who want to take advantage of this opportunity.

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

Induction Programme for principals and teachers comes under the spotlight



The implementation of a framework for a system of career pathing for education leaders and managers, through induction programmes and processes for continued development and training, has been widely deliberated during 2018.

A Roundtable for the Induction of Newly Appointed Teachers took place on 26 September 2018. The Department of Basic Education (DBE) also hosted a second Roundtable, Strengthening School Leadership and Governance, to review the anticipated School Principal Induction Programme. The two day dialogue, organised in collaboration with the European Union (EU), was held at the offices of the South African Council for Educators (SACE) in Centurion from 25 to 26 October 2018. Support received from the Flemish Association for Development Cooperation and Technical Assistance (VVOB) and JET Education Services have been instrumental in the process.

The DBE's *Integrated Strategic Planning Framework for Teacher Education and Development in South Africa* (ISPFTED-SA, 2011-2025), outlines induction and mentoring as a critical aspect for the professional development of teachers and principals. A follow-up and final dialogue will be held with the same stakeholders in Kempton Park, Gauteng Province from 18 to 19 February 2019.

Mr James Ndlebe, Director for Education Management and Governance Development said that, “The induction programmes for newly appointed teachers and principals are one of the Department’s strategies to professionalise teaching and principalship in addition to standards, qualifications and appointment processes to ensure that only qualified and competent individuals are appointed”.

<https://www.education.gov.za/Informationfor/Principals.aspx>



Second Chance Matric Support Programme visits Aliwal North in the Eastern Cape Province



In life, every person deserves a second chance at success. Learners who did not meet the requirements of the National Senior Certificates (NSC) or the Amended Senior Certificate (ASC); and progressed learners who wrote the NSC in the previous year, but did not sit for all six subjects, can have a second chance at academic success through the Second Chance Matric Support Programme (SCMSP).

Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, addressed Aliwal North community members in the Eastern Cape Province on 02 February 2019, as part of the SCMSP roadshows. Minister Motshekga said the Programme is pivotal because it provides intensive support through various platforms including face-to-face classes; digital online or offline programmes; television or radio broadcasts, and multimedia platforms.

Eastern Cape HOD for Education, Mr Themba Kojana, called upon parents to work with the Department in ensuring that their children benefit from the SCMSP. The youth who attended expressed their appreciation that the Department has introduced the SCMSP, saying that the Programme will go a long way in changing their lives for the better and assisting them to pursue various careers at Higher Education Institutions (HEI).

Accelerating the effective implementation of ICT in the basic education sector

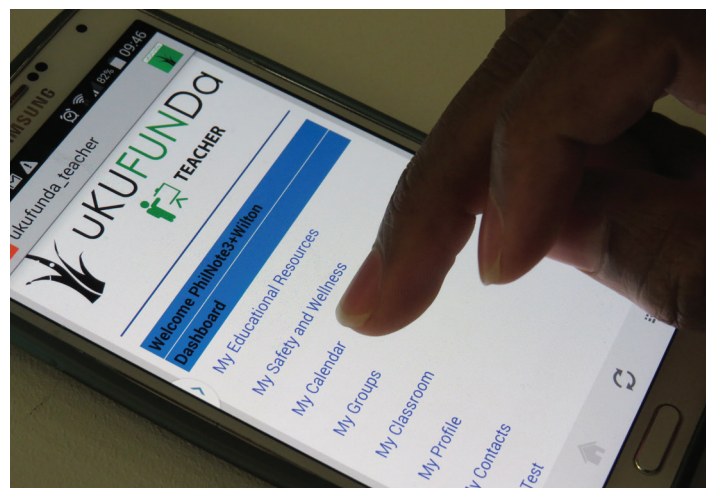


The DBE, in partnership with the National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT), has developed a draft Information Communication and Technology (ICT) Strategy aimed at providing a common vision and framework for ICT implementation in schools.

Chief Education Specialist for Information Communication and Technology, Mr Henry Kavuma, said the DBE has finalised a draft implementation plan for the delivery of digitised Learning and Teaching Support Material (e-LTSM) from 2020 to 2025 through ICT devices. “The plan seeks to leverage on ICT to reduce the cost of providing print LTSM to learners and equip them with the requisite 21st Century skills for the Fourth Industrial Revolution. This intervention is also expected to give expression to the *National Development Plan’s* (NDP’s) 2030 requirement of leveraging on technology to mitigate educational challenges such as the delivery of textbooks and

other learner support material to remote schools. It will also promote inclusive and equitable quality education and provide lifelong learning opportunities for all,” explained Mr Kavuma.

The ICT implementation plan will focus on the ongoing development and digitisation of state-owned textbooks and the enhancement of available static digital content resources. Teachers will also be trained on change management and the integration of ICT in teaching and learning. Learners and teachers will also be provided with devices and connectivity to enable them to access digital e-LTSM from online platforms such as the DBE Cloud. The implementation will be done in collaboration with PEDs and other relevant government departments such as the Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services (DTPS) and the Department of Communications (DoC). Preparations for this intervention have already started with a planned fact-finding mission to Kenya and Rwanda, to be led by Minister Motshekga during April 2019.



SAFE Initiative makes great progress in the first phase of rollout of sanitation services



The DBE is pleased with the progress made by the Sanitation Appropriate for Education (SAFE) initiative in addressing issues of safe and age appropriate sanitation in schools.

The initiative was launched by President Cyril Ramaphosa in Pretoria on 14 August 2018, to restore the dignity of education through the eradication of pit toilets and the provision of decent sanitation to schools.

Acting Chief Director for School Infrastructure, Planning and Delivery, Mr Ramasedi Mafoko, highlighted that subsequent to the launch, significant resources have been mobilised including pledges made by the private sector, strategic partners and built industry professionals who heeded the President's call.

“Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) also reprioritised their budgets to ensure that additional sanitation projects were implemented through the Accelerated School Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (ASIDI). To date, 787 schools were provided with safe, age and grade appropriate sanitation. In addition, 1,150 schools are in the planning design or construction phase. Going forward, an allocation has been put aside over the 2019 *Medium Term Expenditure Framework*, which will assist in addressing the remaining backlog. The SAFE initiative will also contribute towards job creation to improve the lives of local community members,” concluded Mr Mafoko.

<https://www.education.gov.za/SAFE.aspx>



PEDs mandated to promote assessment accommodation in rural schools



The DBE, in partnership with Provincial Education Departments (PEDs), initiated a provision for concession and accommodation to afford learners experiencing barriers to learning with alternative assessment methods or special conditions to write examinations without encountering any stumbling blocks.

Chief Education Specialist for Examination Policy, Ms Kelebogile Sechoaro, said: “The concession and accommodation are designed to equalise opportunities for all learners by addressing barriers which learners may experience. Learners with Special Education Needs (LSEN) are also accommodated in the writing of the National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examinations. Whereas the NSC is a seven subject qualification, these learners are allowed

to enrol for an Endorsed NSC qualification, which makes provision for Grade 12 candidates with special needs to obtain a NSC qualification based on offering five subjects”.

“PEDs must strive to strengthen structures established to deal with issues around assessment accommodation to ensure inclusivity within the schooling system. Every child is entitled to apply for this kind of provision, irrespective of geographical areas. We must encourage rural schools to seize this opportunity to support learners with any form of barrier to learning,” Ms Sechoaro said.

Learners who experience barriers to learning may apply for, and be granted special concessions according to their needs. Provision is made for candidates who are blind, partially sighted, deaf, and hard of hearing, dyslexic, or have physical challenges, to obtain these concessions. All applications for special concessions, will be submitted to a special screening process to ensure that only candidates who qualify for concessions actually benefit from such concessions. Parents and care givers are welcome to contact their nearest District Office for additional information.



Provincial Round-up

Eastern Cape Province



The Eastern Cape Department of Education (ECDoE), hosts an annual Provincial Subject Planners Indaba for Subject Planners and Subject Advisors to reflect on the previous year's performance for the FET Phase (Grade 10-12), with a special focus on Grade 12. The ECDoE's Curriculum FET Directorate therefore recently held its first Indaba at the Christian Centre in East London to set targets for 2019, and to craft subject improvement plans and intervention strategies for implementation in districts and schools. Reflecting on the past three years, the late Education MEC, Mr Mandla Makupula, had created intervention programmes to improve the matric pass rate, as it was his dream to improve the provincial pass rate to 70%. The pass rate has subsequently increased from 65% in 2017 to 70,6 % in 2018. The Department is committed to be a strong support system for learners and teachers in maintaining and improving the provincial pass rate, and will strengthen intensive monitoring and support for underperforming schools scoring below the 65% pass rate.

Western Cape Province



The Western Cape Education Department (WCED) has reported that provincial schools are bursting at the seams. The enrolment figures in the Province have increased to 18,285 learners compared to last year's figure of 16,285 learners. The WCED added that they would require approximately 15 additional schools and 480 additional teachers to accommodate the increase. To date, the Province still needs to place approximately 5,700 learners. Approximately 5,510 learners applied after last year's application period had closed and the Department is expecting more new late applications in the coming two weeks. Parents who plan to move to the Western Cape Province are requested not to deregister their child/children from their current schools before making sure that there is a place at a school in the Province. Officials of the WCED are working closely with schools to accommodate learners still looking for placement in schools.

To accommodate growth, the WCED has, this year, ordered an additional 70 mobile classrooms. In addition, the WCED completed six schools during 2018. Another new school will be completed by April 2019 and three mobile schools have also been completed to accommodate additional growth in hotspot areas. More than 130,000 learners have moved to the Western Cape Province from other provinces over the past five years. The WCED remains committed to provide quality education to every child, in every classroom and in every school in the Province, but the challenges of doing this within budget frameworks are immense.

Upcoming Events

- 12 – 15 February 2019: Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mwel, will be embarking on Provincial Monitoring and Engagement Visits to the Limpopo Province
- 15 February 2019: The DBE will, in partnership with the NECT, be launching the National Reading Coalition (NRC) at the Kopanong Conference Centre in Benoni, Gauteng Province
- 16 February 2019: The 19th Annual National Teaching Awards (NTAs) will be taking place at the Sandton Convention Centre in the Gauteng Province
- 21 – 22 February 2019: Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, will be hosting her first quarter meeting with District Directors at the DBE Building in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 25 – 27 February 2019: An International Africa PLAY Conference will be hosted in Pretoria in the Gauteng Province
- 28 February 2019: The 19th annual NTA award ceremony will be broadcast on SABC 2 at 22:00
- 28 February – 01 March 2019: National School Nutrition Programme Forum and commemoration of Africa Day of School Feeding at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 15 March 2019: The National Education Excellence Awards will be hosted at the Sandton Convention Centre in the Gauteng Province

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