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THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



NEWSLETTER

Minister Motshekga meets with District Directors to set the tone for 2019



The Minister of Basic Education Mrs Angie Motshekga has once again spoken about the migration of the Early Childhood Development (ECD) function from the Department of Social Development to the DBE. Both Minister Motshekga and President Cyril Ramaphosa have spoken about the migration of ECD.

Minister Motshekga brought up the ECD migration as she delivered her speech at the first meeting with District Directors for 2019 at the DBE in Pretoria. The meeting, held from 21 to 22 February, took place under the theme: “From the State of the Nation Address (SONA) to the classroom”.

Minister Motshekga said: “If one expects to harvest, one also has to prepare the soil”. Director for ECD, Ms Marie-Louise Samuels gave a presentation on the relocation of ECD to the DBE, saying that the curriculum, teacher development, Learning and Teaching Support Material (LTSM), setting and assessment are issues that require further deliberation.

Other matters under discussion were Early Grade Reading and the launch of the National Reading Coalition; the Sanitation Appropriate for Education (SAFE) initiative; and the roll-out of Information Communication and Technology (ICTs) in South African schools. “All systems have been put in place; we must now *turbo-charge* the sector for improved education outcomes,” the Minister concluded.

Director-General for Basic Education, Mr Mathanzima Mveli reflected on the highlights of President Ramaphosa’s SONA saying that, “South Africans must have access to an Education and Training System of the highest quality by 2030.

He said that it was important for the Department to improve learning outcomes and performance to be comparable to the performance of learners from other countries at a similar level of development with similar levels of access.

“During the next three years, districts must assist the Department to ensure that 80% of Bachelors are obtained in Quintile 1, 2 and 3 schools. The education system should develop and improve the skills that are needed now and into the future,” said Mveli.

He emphasized the need for the Three Stream Model to increase participation in Mathematics, Science and Technology (MST), focusing on schools of aviation, maritime, ICT and the arts, as well as converting existing schools into Technical High Schools and Schools of Skill”. Mveli then spoke about the role of the District Director’s meeting.

“The mandate of this forum is to forge networks; share information; learn from best practice; and grow in a community of education professionals who lead the charge to turn the education system around. Our aim is to prioritise interventions that worked in the 75 districts during 2018, and to improve on and to outperform our previous best,” said DDG for Planning and Delivery Oversight, Mrs Palesa Tyobeka, in closing.

Click on the link for the full article:

<https://www.education.gov.za/DistrictDirectorsMeeting22Feb2019.aspx>



Director-General Mweli rounds-off his Provincial Engagement and Oversight Visit Programme in three of the nine provinces



Enhancing quality learning and teaching in the Foundation Phase has been identified as a priority area for the improvement of quality passes in the Senior Phase, especially in gateway subjects such as Mathematics, Physical Science and Accounting.

Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mweli, rounded off the Provincial Engagement and Oversight Visit Programme with key education stakeholders in three provinces, Eastern Cape, North West and Limpopo. Mr Mweli encouraged provincial officials to continue with their efforts in supporting schools to improve on the overall provincial performance of 2018.

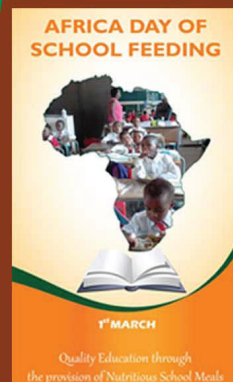
As part of his provincial engagements, the Director-General addressed over 6,000 provincial officials and school principals in various districts. Mr Mweli encouraged provincial officials and school principals to strive for efficiency and quality during the 2019 academic year.

Mr Mweli addressed school principals, saying that the DBE and the Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) must be commended for achieving a significant improvement in critical subjects such as Mathematics, Physical Science and Technical Mathematics. Mr Mweli also indicated that working together as a team, would play a crucial role in ensuring that learners in Quintile 1 to 3 schools achieve distinctions and passes that allow them entry to Bachelor studies at universities in the National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examinations.

Mr Mweli called on provinces to ensure that there are adequate intervention programmes in place to assist progressed learners in meeting the admission requirements at various institutions of higher learning.



Forum to strengthen the National School Nutrition Programme



The National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) Directorate will host the third NSNP Forum for key implementers on national, provincial and district level to discuss and strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of the Programme. The Forum will be held under the theme: “Championing the well-being of Learners – Making a Difference”, at The Lake Hotel in Benoni in the Gauteng Province from 27 February to 01 March 2019.

Among the topics that will be discussed during the Forum include addressing theft and corruption in schools, food borne diseases such as listeriosis; the nutritional value of protein alternatives; a biofortification self-sustaining agricultural approach to address hidden hunger; and strategies to reduce plate wastage in schools.

The NSNP remains one of the DBE’s key government programmes and national success stories feeding over 9.2 million learners from poor households with a nutritious meal daily. The Department launched the first Forum in 2017 under the theme: “Enhancing Quality and Efficiency in the NSNP”.

The Forum was integrated with the Africa School Feeding Day (ASFD), an initiative of the African Union (AU) as part of *Agenda 2063*, with a focus on the well-being of Africa’s children to ensure optimal development for brighter futures. The ASFD is being marked annually on 01 March to recognise school meals as the world’s most widely-used safety net and the vital role it plays in education. The 2019 ASFD will be celebrated under the theme: “Investing in Home-Grown School Feeding for achieving zero hunger, sustaining inclusive education for all including refugees and displaced persons in Africa”. The Forum is envisaged to building capacity and leadership, and to encourage performance excellence amongst key implementers of the Programme.

Honouring best schools and districts through the NSNP Awards



The winners of the 2018/19 NSNP awards will be unveiled at an event in Ekurhuleni next week. The DBE, in partnership with the Tiger Brands Foundation, hosts the annual Awards to honour the effective administration of the NSNP in South Africa.

Dr Granville Whittle, Deputy Director-General for Social Mobilisation and Support Services, will officially announce the winners of the NSNP Best Schools and District Awards on 1 March 2019, at The Lake Hotel in Benoni in the Gauteng Province.

The winner of the NSNP Best Schools Awards during 2018, Tebogo Primary School from the North West Province, received a fully equipped kitchen, a dining hall and eating utensils to the value of R450,000. Since the inception of the Awards during 2011, a total of 115 nominated schools have received prizes such as kitchens, tables, cooking utensils and industrial gas stoves.

“The Awards highlight the positive impact that the DBE is making through the provision of a daily nutritious meal to learners who otherwise would have had to go hungry, thereby raising the levels of learner participation in class. The Awards also honour the dedicated and effective implementation of the NSNP by encouraging best practice in schools, whilst recognising outstanding School Management Teams (SMTs), School Governing Bodies (SGBs) and Volunteer Food Handlers (VFHs),” said DDG Whittle.

The NSNP Best Schools and District Awards are but one of the ways in which the Department acknowledges and encourages schools and district to showcase and share best practice.



ASIDI delivers state-of-the-art infrastructure to Zibungu Secondary School



The Zibungu Secondary School in Libode, Eastern Cape Province, stands tall amongst the rolling hills and cloud covered Mlengana Mountain in the Nyandeni Municipality. The R39 million investment in the future of every learner attending the school, was the reason for them to smile with pride.

The school represents progress of the Department's goal to ensure the eradication of inappropriate infrastructure across the South African Education landscape.

The school is one of 215 schools being built through the Accelerated Schools Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (ASIDI). The Department has also provided water to a further 836 schools, as well as sanitation to 693 schools. The electrification scope for all 372 schools has also been completed.

"Ndinokonwaba, I am overjoyed!" Mr Mziwekhaya Nojoyi, the school's elated principal proclaimed. "We have come a long way to establish a school that realised the vision of this community, and that would hopefully produce competent and skilled future leaders."

"As we hand this school over to the community, parents and care givers, we call upon all of you to value and protect this education institution, along with the education of its learners," Councillor Mesuli Ngqondwana said during the joyous celebration.



DBE and PEDs share best practice to empower MST focused-schools



A team of education experts responsible for managing the Mathematics, Science and Technology (MST) Conditional Grant gathered at the Sci-Bono Discovery Centre in Johannesburg on 21 February 2019. The aim of the meeting was to pave a way forward for increasing participation in, and improving the achievement of quality passes in MST subjects.

The MST Directorate is responsible for the promotion of MST subjects through administering the Grant at national and provincial levels to increase the learner participation rate in MST subjects. Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, initiated the Grant to resource approximately 1,000 MST focused-schools to deliver quality education to Quintile 1 to 2 schools located in rural and township communities.

Ms Elspeth Mmatladi Khembo, MST Project Manager, said the Grant was put in place to reach out to as many schools as possible before its term comes to an end during 2030. “The DBE and Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) will continue to work together to ensure that the 1,000 schools are fully resourced to serve as the hub of excellence in MST subjects. Once the schools are effectively supported, the Grant will assist a further 1,000 schools to ensure that by 2030, 90% of Grade 3, 6 and 9 learners are able to perform at an average of 50% and above in Mathematics, Science and Technology which will lead to approximately 450,000 learners achieving bachelor passes in Mathematics and Science,” said Ms Khembo.

“We continue to meet with the MST Grant Managers and Curriculum Specialists in various provinces to address issues of compliance with the amended *Division of Revenue (DoRA) Act*; to monitor progress in the effective implementation of the Grant; and to share best practice in the MST streams by visiting schools of specialisation,” concluded Ms Khembo.

DBE and SACE team up to celebrate crucial role played by teachers



The DBE and the South African Council for Educators (SACE) are working towards strengthening collaborative efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the Teacher Appreciation and Support Programme (TASP), aimed at restoring the dignity of the teaching profession in South Africa. The TASP was launched by Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga during 2015, to mobilise various school communities to join forces in acknowledging and celebrating the excellent work done by teachers in public schools.

The CEO of SACE, Ms Ella Mokgalane, said as part of the TASP for 2019, SACE will be launching the Teachers’ Fair Programme, which will play a role in affirming and appreciating teachers. “This Programme will also encourage teachers to share best practices and collaborate on various aspects such as curriculum; leadership and management; Information and Communication Technology; school safety and discipline; sports, arts and culture; and governance.”

The Teachers’ Fair Programme will be launched during the 2019/20 financial year. “We collectively salute the teachers who continue to show high levels of commitment despite the harsh conditions they face on a daily basis. As a nation, we have a mandate to support teachers in dealing with adversities experienced within the schooling environment. The teaching profession is indeed the heartbeat of the nation; without teachers in our 25,000 public and independent educational institutions there will be no curriculum delivery, no future for our learners and no nation building,” concluded Ms Mokgalane.

Jamboree for future choices promotes inclusion and cohesion in schools

The DBE, in partnership with the Kara Heritage Institute, hosted the *Jamboree for future choices* on 16 February 2019 to promote access, inclusion and cohesion in schools.

The Jamboree saw learners from various schools in the Tshwane North and Tshwane South districts coming together to learn and engage on life skills; career guidance; gender awareness; and the significance of history and heritage. Presentations were made by the South African Police Service, the Civics Academy, Childline South Africa and the Learner Support Agents for Children in Distress (CINDI).

The Jamboree addressed barriers related to social welfare, life skills and career development services for marginalised groups. Through this platform learners had access to a range of services aimed at developing socially inclusive practices focused on addressing the inequities of the past. The Jamboree further augments the deliverables highlighted by the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statements (CAPS) to equip learners, irrespective of socio-economic background, race, gender, physical ability or intellectual ability, with the knowledge, skills and values to attain self-fulfilment and meaningful participation in society.

In his address, founder and Executive Chairperson of the Kara Heritage Institute, Dr Mathole Motshekga, engaged learners on what it means to be an African: “Africa means divine or a royal continent, and this implies that our learners are also royalty and that there should be no reason for you not to respect one another and others, including the elderly”. Dr Motshekga concluded by highlighting issues on the spirit of *Ubuntu*, race, class and gender, adding: “There is no room for racism and patriarchy in our classrooms”.



Youth invited to visit Khetha Centre for career guidance



The DBE, in collaboration with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), has established a career guidance or “Khetha Centre” at the DBE certification centre to address career pathing challenges in the academic field during November 2018.

Director for Curriculum Implementation and Quality Improvement, Ms Cheryl Weston, described Khetha as a campaign to enhance career development services in South African communities.

She said that the centre would enable young people to make informed educational, training and occupational choices as they exit the basic education sector and move on to higher education institutions”.

“Through the centre, visitors are afforded an opportunity to interact with competent and professional career advisors with an in-depth knowledge of career guidance. Other services offered at the centre include access to the National Career Advice Portal (NCAP), which is an online self-help tool to navigate through subject choice, career choice and employability skills; access to the multi-channel National Career Advisory Helpline; and further guidance on financial aid, focusing on the Funza Lushaka Bursary Scheme and the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS),” explained Ms Weston, advising the youth to visit the centre for information and guidance in making the right career choices.

Provincial Round-up

Free State Province



education

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Education
FREE STATE PROVINCE

The Free State Government has targeted education, skills development and youth opportunities as their focus areas for 2019. These plans for education also include the opening of ten new schools, Free State Premier, Ms Sisi Ntombela announced. The Province will also be focusing on infrastructure maintenance and eradicating pit toilets in schools in the province. Delivering her State of the Province Address on 18 February 2019, Premier Ntombela said the province has 156 schools with pit latrines. Premier Ntombela’s commitment to the eradication of pit toilets comes just weeks after President Cyril Ramaphosa’s State of the Nation Address which committed to eradicating pit toilets in all the provinces. The Premier went on to highlight the need to invest in young people and ensure that they participate meaningfully in the country’s economy by implementing the *Framework for Skills for a Changing World*. The Framework is meant to prepare children to respond to emerging technologies such as robotics and artificial intelligence. “We will extend our current programme of using technology to teach our learners in more schools to better prepare them for the 4th Industrial Revolution,” said the Premier, acknowledging that quality education furthers social and economic development.

Western Cape Province



Western Cape Education MEC, Debbie Schäfer and radio DJ Carl Wastie kicked off the Western Cape Education Department's (WCED's) "Raise Your Voice, Not Your Phone" anti-bullying campaign for 2019 at the Westridge Secondary School in Mitchells Plain. This campaign is part of a "roadshow" to schools highlighting the effects of bullying on learners, and to draw attention to the fact that learners who film, post or distribute videos are also participating in the bullying. Given the prevalence of bullying in schools, the WCED embarked on this campaign during August 2018. Toolkits have also been developed to educate learners and schools throughout the province, to "Raise Your Voice, Not Your Phone. The campaign provides tips on what one can do to help victims that are being bullied, as well as the types of support that is available for learners that are experiencing such abuse.

Eastern Cape Province



The Eastern Cape Gambling Board declared John Bisseker Senior Secondary school in East London, based in Parkside, a gambling, alcohol, crime and drug free zone. The Eastern Cape Department of Education (ECDoE), in collaboration with the Eastern Cape Gambling Board, South African Police Service and the Eastern Cape Department of Social Development partnered as part of a programme to create safer learning environments, by eliminating ills such as gambling, crime and substance abuse in schools, especially in communities where it is most prevalent. Learners shared their experiences in the form of a play, representing and creating awareness on the dangers and consequences of crime and substance abuse, motivating fellow learners to abstain. Educators and learners committed themselves to keep their school a gambling, crime and substance abuse free school for a better and safer tomorrow.

Upcoming Events

- 25 – 27 February 2019: An International Africa PLAY Conference will be hosted at the Maslow Times Square, Menlyn Maine, 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: The National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) Forum, the commemoration of Africa Day of School Feeding, as well as the NSNP Best School Awards will be taking place at The Lake Hotel, Benoni in the Gauteng Province
- 01 March 2019: Launch of the National English Teachers Association of South Africa (NAETSA) at the DBE Building 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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