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THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



NEWSLETTER

Minister Motshekga launches NAETSA to support English Language teaching in the country



The National Association of English Teachers of South Africa (NAETSA) was officially launched at the Department of Basic Education (DBE) in Pretoria on 01 March 2019. This marks the end of an exciting seven year journey of the DBE and the British Council (BC), and the commencement of the next phase of the journey which will see English teachers in South Africa take ownership of their professional development through the support from NAETSA.

NAETSA is the culmination of efforts by the DBE, the BC and provinces. The plan was for provinces to launch their provincial associations (PAETSA) to NAETSA. To date, seven provinces have launched their PAETSAs and two are scheduled to launch soon.

The NAETSA will promote the professional development of English language teachers through the formation of professional networks at a national level; the hosting of various professional development sessions and workshops at national and provincial levels across all nine provinces in South Africa; conduct research; and partner with local and international higher educational institutes.

Presenting the keynote address during the official launch of NAETSA, Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga said, "I am very grateful that we have reached this destination after many years of collaboration with the BC. I am pleased that teachers are seizing these opportunities presented by our partners to work together as a team, and to open the doors and horizons for our teachers to network. Only when you bring a bundle of sticks together, you are able to ignite a fire. Language teachers assist in teaching learners to develop a love or passion for reading and reading skills".

Click on the below link for the full article:

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



Gauteng and North West Provinces emerge as winners during 2019 NSNP Best Schools and Districts Awards



The DBE, in partnership with the Tiger Brands Foundation, hosted the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) Best Schools and Districts Awards Ceremony at the Lakes Hotel and Conference Centre in Benoni, Gauteng Province on 01 March 2019. This took place to honour schools and districts that continue to demonstrate the promotion of nutrition and physical education in schools. The Awards Ceremony also coincided with the annual *Africa Day of School Feeding*, and was a culmination of the fourth annual NSNP Forum.

The Sefako Mapogo Makgatho Primary School from the Gauteng Province scooped the R500,000 first prize for their noteworthy approach to improving the effective implementation of the NSNP. The Awards will contribute towards an NSNP kitchen to enhance healthy eating, and

will be coupled with an in-school breakfast programme for learners, educators and other staff members for a period of three years. The Tiger Brands Foundation will also provide accredited training for Volunteer Food Handlers (VFHs) to sustain excellence in school feeding. Second place went to the Fikizolo Primary School, Eastern Cape Province with third place going to the Makeng Primary School, Free State Province. All three schools received floating trophies and certificates signed by Minister Motshekga.

The Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality from the North West Province won the Best District prize to the value of R85,000, which will be used to procure office equipment for NSNP officials. The Fezile Dabi District Municipality from the Free State Province was the second place winner and the OR Tambo Inland District from the Eastern Cape Province was the third place winner. Both districts received two laptops, a colour printer and a digital camera whilst all finalists also received certificates.

In his address, Deputy Director-General for Social Mobilisation and Support Services, Dr Granville Whittle, explained that the NSNP plays a critical role in ensuring that children in rural communities are fully supported to realise academic success. He then thanked the Tiger Brands Foundation for having been consistent in providing quality kitchens to the winning schools for the past eight years, saying that through collective efforts, the implementation of the NSNP will be sustainable to support millions of learners in the coming years.



DBE and Provincial Education Departments explore ways to provide nutritious meals in schools



Various education stakeholders specialising in food security, nutrition, physical education and research, participated in the 2019 NSNP Forum held under the theme, “*Championing the well-being of learners – making a difference*”. The Forum took place at the Lakes Hotel and Conference Centre in Benoni from 27 February to 01 March 2019.

The NSNP has reached a milestone in terms of breaching the inequality gap between urban and rural schools. Apart from promoting nutritional education in various school communities, the Programme continues to feed more than 9.2 million learners with nutritious meals daily. The DBE established the Forum during 2017 to strengthen guidelines and strategies towards ensuring the effective implementation of the NSNP in all public schools.

NSNP Director, Ms Neo Sediti, said that engaging experts in the field of nutrition education has been very beneficial. “Hopefully the key implementers of the NSNP and the provincial and district co-ordinators benefited from this Forum. The Forum was established to create a platform for key implementers to address poverty and malnutrition to enhance concentration rates in class. The implementation of the NSNP should be strengthened to assist the sector in dealing with issues of learner retention and success rate in the Further Education and Training (FET) Band,” said Ms Sediti.

Ms Verona Witbooi, Eastern Cape Education Department Director for NSNP, Poverty Alleviation and Rural Development said, “The Forum allowed participants to share best practice and identify various ways of enhancing the efficiency of the NSNP”.

DBE mobilises support to promote nutritional education in various school communities

The DBE acknowledges the valuable contribution made by the private sector in promoting nutrition and physical education within the Basic Education Sector. Currently, the DBE has partnered with an array of partners such as Woolworths, Nestlé, the Tiger Brands Foundation, UNISA and Ketsi Gas and Equipment to ensure the holistic development of learners in the schooling system.

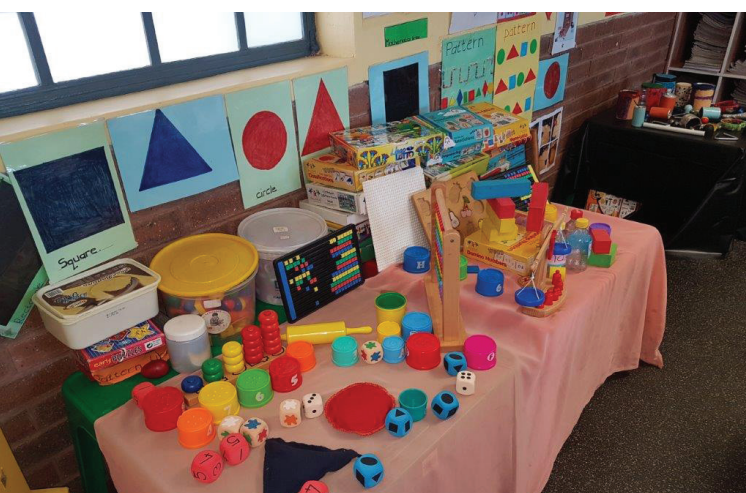
According to Researcher and Post Graduate Assistant at UNISA, Ms Lebo Roda, the DBE is doing excellent work in terms of imparting nutritional knowledge and shaping the eating behaviour of learners through the NSNP. She advised the Sector to revise the curriculum to align with the new trend and changes that are emerging, particularly in the area of nutritional education. “Tools such as the Food Based Dietary Guidelines (FBDG) need to be re-enforced through the curriculum, starting with the Foundation Phase to address the rate of obesity amongst young children”.

A further contribution to education is made by Woolworths. Through the *Making the Difference Educational Programme for primary schools*, Woolworths has reached out to over 3,000 schools in the Western Cape, Gauteng, Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal Provinces. “As part of its resource material, interactive classroom activities and teacher training, the Programme continues to add value in promoting physical education and healthy eating habits in schools,” said Ms Illana Abrahams, the National Project Manager for Woolworths Educational Programmes.

Ketsi Gas and Equipment has also partnered with the Education Sector to promote compliance in terms of safety regulations, especially within schools that are relying on gas to prepare NSNP meals. Ketsi Gas and Equipment Director, Mr Moeketsi Mpitso said, “Our company engages with various school communities regularly to empower School Governing Bodies (SGBs) and VFHs on the effective use of gas, and we are currently assisting 420 schools in the West Rand area”.

NSNP Director, Ms Sediti further added that *Nestlé for Healthier Kids* has also collaborated with the DBE towards addressing the increasing levels of obesity by empowering schools to teach learners about the importance of balancing good nutrition and healthy hydration.

MST Conditional Grant supports learning through play



National and provincial delegates from the Mathematics, Science and Technology (MST) Conditional Grant visited one of the beneficiary schools, Nkone Maruping Primary School in Braamfisherville, Soweto on 22 February 2019.

The highlight of the day was a science experiment conducted by Grade R learners on how to create a volcano using vinegar or acetic acid, food colouring and baking soda or bicarbonate. The delegates were also impressed with the sanitation facilities for Grade R learners at the school, in heeding President Ramaphosa's call to eradicate pit latrines across South African schools as part of the Sanitation Appropriate for Schools (SAFE) initiative.

Learners demonstrated the impact of practical learning of Mathematics and Science in the Foundation Phase as "children learn whilst they play. Most importantly, in play, children learn how to learn," said Dr O Fred Donaldson, a play specialist, internationally recognised for his ongoing research and use of play with children and animals for forty years. He has coined the term "original play" to describe his work. It is therefore imperative to provide Foundation Phase learners from previously disadvantaged townships in Quintile 1 to 3 schools with MST kits and Information Communication and Technology (ICT) smart classrooms, through the MST Conditional Grant.

The Mathematics, Science and Technology (MST) Conditional Grant Inter-Provincial Meeting was hosted from 21 to 22 February 2019 in the Gauteng Province. The two-day meeting deliberated the MST Conditional Grant Progress Report for the third quarter; the impact of the Grant on the 2018 National Senior Certificate (NSC) results; and resourcing of schools in General Education and Training (GET) and Further Education and Training (FET) Bands, including Agricultural and Technical High Schools.



Call for intermediate phase learners to participate in DBE Spelling Bee South Africa

It is a fact that reading regularly expands one's vocabulary. This was confirmed by avid readers Neha Harribhajan from Parkside Primary School, KwaZulu-Natal Province; Rubina Hussain from Platina Primary School, Limpopo Province; and Nonhlanhla Sonto Mashabana from Blackhill-Schoongezicht Primary School, Mpumalanga Province; who emerged as the top three spellers, respectively, at the finals of the 2018 Spelling Bee Competition. The Championship word for 2018 was guillotine.

The DBE Spelling Bee South Africa (National Spelling Bee Championship) is hosted annually as part of the *Read to Lead Campaign*, targeting learners in Grade 4 to 6 (the Intermediate Phase). The Championship is aimed at improving learners' performance in languages, especially in English.

The procedure for participation in the 2019 Spelling Bee is to complete the registration form which must be stamped by the relevant school and sent through to the provincial Spelling Bee co-ordinator. Parents of learners registered for Home Education are advised to request the provincial official responsible for Home Education to support and stamp the form for them. Upon receipt of the registration form, 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 the provincial level.

Schools will then host circuit/cluster Spelling Bees before the winners proceed to the district and provincial championships. The DBE will host the Championship in Pretoria during October 2019. All schools, including Special Schools, are invited to enter. Participation in the programme is free.

For additional enquiries, kindly contact Mr PJ Ngoepe, Sport and Enrichment Directorate on Tel: 012 357 3442 (or via email:

ngoepe.pj@dbe.gov.za



Provincial Round-up

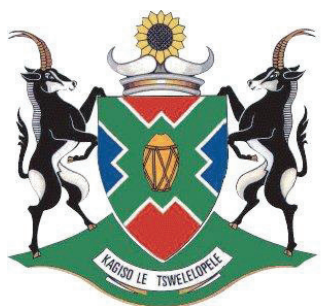
Western Cape Province



BETTER TOGETHER.

On 28 February 2019, Western Cape Education MEC, Ms Debbie Schäfer and MEC for Community Safety, Mr Alan Winde, oversaw a search and seizure operation at yet another Cape Town Metro School. The Western Cape Education Department (WCED), in conjunction with the South African Police Service, conducts random search and seizure operations as a security measure to deter learners from bringing weapons and narcotics onto the school premises. These search and seizure operations form part of a broader campaign to improve safety in schools. Safe and secure learning environments are essential to ensure that quality education is being delivered in every classroom and in every school. It is therefore imperative that schools remain weapon, drugs and alcohol free zones.

North West Province



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NORTH WEST PROVINCE

North West Education and Sport Development MEC Mr Sello Lehari, is placing a renewed focus on school sport across the Province. MEC Lehari recently took time to talk to school sport organisers and departmental officials responsible for sport at Mogogelo Village, Hammanskraal in an effort to resuscitate school sport. Approximately 2,000 educators across the Province responsible for sport in schools received the instruction to revive sport in schools. MEC Lehari said, “I am emphasising that every school should appoint fulltime sport organisers and that there should be sport committees at school, Circuit, Sub-district, District and Provincial levels”. MEC Lehari also emphasised that schools should utilise the services of retired sport professionals in order to motivate and inspire the youth to become physically active.

Upcoming Events

- 04 – 08 March 2019: The Lesson Study Training Programme for Natural Sciences (Grades 4 to 9) will be taking place in Taung in the North West Province
- 05 March 2019: Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, will be conducting Provincial Engagement Visits in the Mpumalanga Province
- 09 March 2019: Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, will be embarking on a Second Chance Matric Support Programme (SCMSP) roadshow to Mtubatuba in the KwaZulu-Natal Province
- 15 March 2019: The National Education Excellence Awards will be hosted at the Sandton Convention Centre in the Gauteng Province
- 20 March 2019: Launch of the Mathematics, Science and Technology (MST) Strategy at the DBE Building in Pretoria, Gauteng Province

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