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THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



NEWSLETTER

Minister Angie Motshekga delivers keynote address during Sasol's 10 Year Legacy Celebration and book launch



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, addressed delegates during the Sasol Inzalo Foundation 10 Year Legacy Celebration and book launch that took place at Sasol's Offices in Sandton on 07 February 2020.

Minister Motshekga applauded the ten-year DBE partnership with the Sasol Inzalo Foundation saying, "You have reached many young people and changed their lives for the better. This isn't just about bursaries and winter schools, but an inter-generational investment in textbooks. Sasol Inzalo Foundation is a beacon of hope and progress towards a truly improved quality of basic education. Our partnership has also broken the artificial barriers among different role players in the basic education space: corporate, community, learners and teachers".

The Minister continued to list Sasol's various contributions, such as the sixty new textbook titles that were produced during 2018, totalling 240 textbooks, as well as their investment in (STEM) Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics education, reaching over six million learners, students and teachers in just ten years. An additional two new Mobile Science Labs have been launched taking these to nine in total, reaching 27,000 rural students annually. A total of 880 curriculum advisors have been trained over ten years. In recent years eight workshops have been upgraded, taking the total to 19 technical school workshops upgraded to date. "To this end, the Sasol Inzalo Foundation has demonstrated commitment, resilience and innovation."

The Minister concluded by saying that, "I wish that our solid partnership with Sasol Inzalo Foundation gathers momentum and fortitude in the next ten years. We remain steadfast in our mission to improve basic education so that in our lifetime we can realise our vision of much improved learner outcomes, comparable with our peers across the globe".

Gift of the Givers continues to do more for needy schools



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, met with representatives of the Gift of the Givers on 5 February 2020, to explore the possibility of a sustainable cooperation between the Department of Basic Education and the Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO).

Gift of the Givers is a world-renowned disaster relief NGO organisation that not only intervenes during emergency disasters, but assists Government to provide relief services in the form of stationery packs, bursaries, ablution facilities and sanitary pads for girls in several rural schools across the country.

The NGO says there are still many under-resourced schools in the country and they are doing their part to assist Government in ensuring that children learn under decent and conducive environments.

Minister Motshekga expressed her gratitude for the gesture, and welcomed the possibility of an ongoing, sustained relationship with the Gift of the Givers and other stakeholders and partners, in the spirit of education being a societal issue.

The Gift of the Givers donated school uniforms to learners at a primary school in Mamelodi on 6 February 2020, and will be donating uniforms and stationery to learners at the Nelson Mandela Secondary School in Nyanga, Western Cape Province on 12 February, where the Minister will take the opportunity to encourage and motivate the Class of 2020.

DBE and private sector vow to distribute 25,000 school shoes in 2020



The wellbeing of South African learners remains our main priority. The Department of Basic Education (DBE) therefore welcomes the launch of My Walk Made With Soul School Shoes Initiative aimed at providing school shoes and socks to learners in poor communities. The launch took place at the Chivirikani Primary School in Katlehong, Gauteng Province on 04 February 2020. The project seeks to reach out to 25,000 learners in 2020.

The My Walk Made With Soul school shoes are provided by Netcare and Adcock Ingram using non-hazardous, recycled PVC healthcare waste products, to address social challenges faced by learners during their academic journey. According to the Chief Executive Officer of Netcare, Dr Richard Friesland, the recycling of PVC waste products will contribute to environmental sustainability, whilst addressing the needs in poor communities. “We found ourselves with tonnes of high-quality PVC waste, such as drip bags, oxygen masks and associated tubing that can only be used once in a medical context. In the past, these products ended up at landfills. The partnership is an example of embracing a circular economy. It shows how a green solution can fulfil a material need for a business while simultaneously benefiting society-in this case by supporting education, job creation and enterprise development”.

Speaking during the launch, Chief Director for National and Provincial Communication, Mr Elijah Mhlanga, stated that school shoes are a necessity, and if learners do not have adequate footwear it has a high chance of impacting on their academic performance. Mr Mhlanga acknowledged the collective efforts made by Netcare, Adcock Ingram and My Walk Made With Soul in restoring the dignity of education in schools, saying it will improve school performance. “It is always fulfilling to join hands with a partner who is willing to give back to the community,” Mr Mhlanga concluded.



Key education stakeholders come together to explore possible ways to improve on learning outcomes

The performance of the Basic Education Sector continues to show a significant shift in several districts and provinces, particularly in the attainment of distinctions and entries to bachelor studies at institutions of higher learning.

Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, proceeded to the Northern Cape Province to engage provincial and district officials from 05 to 07 February 2020. During the discussions and presentations, the Nomakwa Education District, which is one of the best districts in the country, was used as an example to encourage other districts in the province to rise to the top during the 2020 National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examinations.

The 2019 NSC Examination results revealed that Nomakwa's Class of 2019 scored an average of 80%, making it the most improved district in several high enrolment subjects including Home Languages, Physical Science and Mathematics. The district also attained a high number of entries to bachelor studies at institutions of higher learning.

Speaking during his visit, Mr Mveli advised the provincial and district officials to intensify support to increase the performance of most of their districts to an average of 80%. "Although most provinces have recorded a tremendous improvement during the 2019 NSC Examinations, it is still recommended that provinces prioritize increasing the intake of Mathematics and Physical Science learners during 2020. It is also the responsibility of the provincial and district officials to see to it that those learners who participate in these subjects receive adequate support," said the Director-General.

He further lamented that school principals are not doing enough in ensuring that Home Languages were prioritised in the whole school improvement plans. "We need to work together as the Sector to improve quality learning and teaching in public schools," he added. Mr Mveli indicated that provinces are at the moment, confronted with a steep slope, and the only way to remain strong and focused is to create a sustainable intervention support to progressed learners, under-performing districts and to further strengthen learning and teaching in the General Education and Training (GET) phase.



Lessons in the spotlight for provincial and district officials in the Northern Cape Province



Engaging provincial and district officials as part of the Director-General's Provincial Engagement and Oversight Visit Programme has emerged as the strongest platform to afford provincial and district officials an opportunity to share best practices.

Sharing his views on areas of improvement to be considered by the Northern Cape Province during 2020, Chief Education Specialist for National Assessment and Public Examinations, Mr Tinyiko Khosa said: "The Northern Cape Province should develop a plan to effectively manage over-age learners in the system over a period of time. Some over-age learners need to be redirected into Further Education and Training (FET) colleges. The province should consider improving the performance of learners at the FET phase in Home Language (Afrikaans, IsiXhosa and Setswana). Failure in Home Language means that a learner has failed the Grade, according to the progression policy. Furthermore, a targeted strategy to improve performance in the high enrolment subjects needs to be implemented immediately. These include Agricultural Sciences, Life Sciences, Mathematics, Mathematical Literacy, Life Sciences and Physical Sciences."

Mr Khosa also mentioned that the assessment system implemented in GET needs to be strengthened to achieve quality results. "It is necessary to improve learner performance in the School Based Assessment (SBA) and to ensure that all assessments are of good quality and therefore do not lead to inflated marks that may be rejected by Umalusi. Rejected SBA marks jeopardises the learners' chances of passing. Subject advisors, therefore, have to focus on their monitoring at schools where the SBA marks of their subjects were rejected by Umalusi and support the subject teachers with regard to using quality SBA tasks and quality marking," he explained.

He further added: "The Northern Cape has the greatest chance of rising to join the top three provinces. The number of learners enrolled for Grade 12 is very low compared to the rest of the provinces. With lower numbers, the performance should improve easily, as this should be easier to manage."

Access to public education for learners with severe to profound intellectual disabilities



The DBE this week, hosted a training session for 240 departmental officials and representatives from the nine Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) and the Districts at the Lakes Hotel in the Gauteng Province. The training was part of enhancing accountability and uniformity in the provision of education and therapeutic services to Learners with Severe to profound Intellectual Disability (LSPID) in special care centres, selected schools and those who are home educated.

Participants included transversal itinerant outreach team members such as Physiotherapists, Speech Therapists, Psychologists, Social Workers, Occupational Therapists and Senior Education Specialists. The purpose of the training was to orientate participants in the recently developed draft *Standard Operating Procedure Manual* that will be used to enhance accountability and uniformity when rendering education services to the LSPID.

In his opening remarks, Mr Jabulani Ngcobo, Director for Inclusive Education, expressed his profound appreciation to PEDs for honouring the DBE's invitation to the training and their contribution in enabling the LSPID to realise their right to education. He requested participants to continue building on the work that has been done thus far.

The training generated valuable inputs that will be used to finalise the *Standard Operating Procedure Manual* and tools that will be used.



Taking action to protect our learners against cyberbullying



The DBE, together with Cell C, is taking revenge on cyberbullies through the Cell C Cyber Safety Programme under the theme, “Remember to stop, block, save & tell!”. Cyber safety refers to Internet or online safety, including personal safety, privacy and information.

The rate of mental health illnesses, self-harming and suicide linked to digital media usage among young people is increasing at an alarming rate. During an interview with Mr Paseka Njobe, Director for Safety in Education at the Department, he said that, “equipping learners with increased connectivity leads to higher levels of risk. Bullying and cyberbullying has a devastating impact on psychosocial wellness, academic performance and school attendance. For this reason, it was necessary to encourage the safety and responsible use of the internet and social media platforms. The programme has been adopted by the DBE as a preferred solution to be implemented and monitored in primary schools across South Africa”.

Mr Njobe shared a few tips on how to deal with cyberbullying: “Learners are advised not to respond when being bullied, as a reaction is usually what the bully wants, providing him/her with a sense of power over the victim. Responding with similar threats reinforces the bully’s behaviour and fuels the cycle of aggression. Online messages can usually be captured with a screenshot, saved as evidence and shown to someone who can help. Use preferences or privacy tools to block the person. If cyberbullying happens

whilst you are chatting, leave the *room*. Learners should not remain silent, but report any abusive comments to the social media website administrators, teachers and parents.”

“Learners are also encouraged to always log out of their profiles once done and to rather insert their username and password every time they use the platform. Using a strong password is also advised. The longer the password, the more secure it will be. Use a different password for different social media accounts. Be selective with friend requests and click links with caution. Be careful about what is shared and don’t reveal sensitive personal information such as a home address, financial information or contact numbers. Ensure that your browser, operating system, and software are kept up to date,” Mr Njobe advised.

Another crucial partner is the NPO, Active Education Foundation, who will assist in educating school learners about responsible social media usage, online safety and cyberbullying.

Click on the below link for additional information:

<https://www.cellc.co.za/cellc/cellc-cyber-safety#/collapse7>

IRC Book Review of Sarah Butler’s Ten Things I’ve Learnt About Love



select a book and read aloud to the children in your life; you may also encourage them to take turns and read aloud to you too.

Have you ever wondered about what drives an adult to leave their home and choose a life of vagrancy, constantly at the mercy of the harsh and unrelenting elements, not to mention the rude and judgemental stares from strangers? Daniel, the protagonist in Sarah Butler’s *Ten Things I’ve Learnt About Love*, might provide a clue to this enigma. Set in cloudy London, the novel tells the stories of Daniel, a man who makes sense of the world around him through texture and colour, and is in search of a daughter he has never met; and that of Alice, a modern nomad in search of a sense of self. Their stories, though weaved in a peculiar way, converge in the most poignant manner, where they both realise that some truths don’t need to be said out loud to bring closure to a lifelong search for belonging.

It’s been a while since a book had me so choked up with emotions that they spooled, glassy and unshed, at the corners of my eyes. *Ten Things I’ve Learnt About Love* is not an easy, light read but it reminds us that we’re all on a journey, some longer and more complicated than others.

This book is among the 14,529 resources available for borrowing at the DBE’s Information Resource Centre. Not a member yet? Come join us! We’re located at GF29 on the Ground Floor, West Wing.

In celebration of World Read Aloud Day (WRAD) that takes place annually on 05 February, the Department’s Information Resource Centre (IRC), this week, focused on Sarah Butler’s book, *Ten Things I’ve Learnt About Love*. WRAD highlights the importance of reading aloud and sharing stories. As parents, caregivers, aunts, uncles, siblings and community members we urge you to take a few minutes out of your day,



World Read Aloud Day with Nal’ibali



Reading aloud to children on World Read Aloud Day shows our commitment to the power of literacy, and is a very practical way of showing everyone that we think reading matters!

Since 2013, Nal’ibali has been bringing you a special story to celebrate World Read Aloud Day. Last year, the story was read to 1 559 730 children on one day! This year’s story, **A day to remember**, again features some of our much-loved Nal’ibali characters. Read it to the children in your life on World Read Aloud Day 2020 and be part of the excitement!



8 benefits of reading aloud

Reading aloud tips

1. Reading aloud is always a performance! Put lots of expression in your voice to create the right mood.
2. If you are reading to a group of children, practise reading the story aloud a few times before reading it to them.
3. Start by reading the name of the author and illustrator so that your children appreciate that stories are created by people just like them!
4. Allow time for your children to look at the pictures and comment, if they want to.
5. Help develop your children’s prediction skills by asking questions like, “What do you think is going to happen next?” once or twice during the story.
6. Help develop empathy as you read by occasionally asking questions like, “I wonder how the children felt when they saw their creature and Noodle heading towards the mayor?”

Spread a love of stories!
Pass on this story resource or share it with someone you know.

Reading aloud to your children:

- ☒ shows them that you value books and reading.
- ☒ gives you things to talk about together.
- ☒ builds a bond between you.
- ☒ allows them to experience reading as a satisfying activity.
- ☒ motivates them to learn to read for themselves and then to keep reading.
- ☒ shows them how we read and how books work.
- ☒ lets them enjoy stories that are beyond their current reading ability.
- ☒ develops their imagination, vocabulary and language abilities.

How to get involved

Go to www.nalibali.org to sign up your family, reading club or school and help make this the biggest World Read Aloud Day event ever in South Africa!



Provincial Round-up

KwaZulu-Natal Province



education

Department:
Education

PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education also celebrated WRAD on 05 February. This year's story, *A Day to Remember*, was written by local author and early literacy expert, Ms Lorato Trok. Trok wrote the story in Setswana, her mother tongue, after which it was translated into English and all the other official languages. KwaZulu-Natal Education MEC, Mr Kwazi Mshengu, celebrated WRAD by reading *A Day to Remember*, at the Grange Primary School in the UMgungundlovu District, Pietermaritzburg to encourage learners to read with meaning. KwaZulu-Natal Head of Department (HoD), Dr Enock Vusumuzi Nzama, spent the day with learners from the Nichols Junior Primary School in the same district. Education remains the most powerful weapon to educate children, whilst reading aloud and storytelling are integral building blocks of learning. Literacy skills are a strong predictor of future academic success in all subjects. Children who regularly read and hear engaging stories, in languages they understand, are well-equipped and motivated to learn to read and write.

Eastern Cape Province



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EDUCATION

The Eastern Cape Department of Education (ECDoE) is empowering learners with Autism. Eastern Cape Education MEC, Mr Fundile Gade, accompanied by the Premier of the Province, Mr Lubabalo Oscar Mabuyane, recently visited O.R. Tambo Coastal District where a new school for learners with autism was established. This forms part of the ECDoE's outreach programme, "Taking Inclusive Education to the people", which took place at the Basic Education Centre at Manzabila Primary School in the Manzabila Village, Port St Johns. The programme responds to the *Bill of Rights* and the *Constitution* of South Africa, that states that every learner has a right to education irrespective of learning barriers, age and gender. Addressing community members at their new school, MEC Gade said, "The Department of Education is here today to open a school for the needs of our children that are living with autism as a commitment to ensure that every disabled learner has access to education. As a department, we are in the process of ensuring that we find a better approach in responding to the social ills of the past to bridge the gap amongst our people". MEC Gade concluded that that this dream cannot be realised without the collaboration of various stakeholders.

Western Cape Province



Western Cape
Government

Education

BETTER TOGETHER.

The Western Cape Schools Evaluation Authority (SEA) will begin its evaluations of schools on 10 February 2020. The SEA was established by the *Western Cape Provincial School Education Amendment Bill* in November 2018, and its associated regulations. It is an independent entity, whose purpose is to support school improvement by identifying factors that impact on performance in the areas that matter most for quality education delivery such as Learner Achievement; Teaching and Learning; Behaviour and Safety; Leadership and Management; and Governance, Parents and Community. At least 50 schools will be evaluated this year, and an impartial report on each will be submitted to the Western Cape Education MEC, Ms Debbie Schäffer and other key stakeholders such as school principals, School Governing Bodies, District Directors and the Superintendent-General to improve the quality of education. The reports will also be released to the public and the intention of the exercise is to improve transparency and accountability in the system.

Upcoming Events

11 – 24 February 2020: Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli will be engaging with district and provincial officials during his Provincial Engagement Visits

12 February 2020: Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, will be officiating during the Gift of the Givers hand-over ceremony at the Nelson Mandela Secondary School in Nyanga, Western Cape Province where school uniforms and stationery will be donated to the school

15 February 2020: The National Teaching Awards (NTA) Gala will be taking place at Soshanguve East Secondary School in the Gauteng Province

20 – 21 February 2020: A Mathematics, Science and Technology (MST) Inter-Provincial Meeting is scheduled to take place in the Limpopo Province

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