



THUTO

PRODUCED BY:
THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



NEWSLETTER

Minister Motshekga's response to SONA 2020



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, presented the Department of Basic Education's (DBE's) response to President Cyril Ramaphosa's 2020 State of the Nation Address (SONA) during a joint sitting of Parliament in Cape Town on 18 February 2020. The Minister said that the 2014 to 2019 *Medium Term Strategic Framework* (MTSF) was mainly to improve the quality of, and expand access to education and training for all South African citizens. The combined and common mandate for the 2019 to 2024 MTSF, is to close the skills gap and increase employment opportunities for young people.

The Minister therefore reported that, in addressing skills for a changing world, the DBE has completed the development of the Coding and Robotics Curriculum for Grade R to 9 which is being piloted in Grades R to 3 for implementation in the Foundation Phase by 2022. The DBE was also making progress in respect of the Three-Stream Curriculum Model, heralding a shift in focus towards vocational and technical education.

Responding to the President's statement that "a youthful population has more access to education than ever before with 2.4 million children in early childhood development and pre-school," the Minister said that attendance in Early Childhood Development (ECD) among 0 to 4-year-olds, has increased significantly. "We are in the process of declaring the two years prior to Grade 1, as compulsory through the *Basic Education Amendment Bill*, which will be tabled in Parliament during 2020".

In response to the President's announcement that "learners must read with meaning on the year they turn ten years of age," Minister Motshekga reported that the DBE has developed an Integrated Reading Sector Plan, which is driven through the Primary School Reading Intervention Programme (PSRIP) to improve learning outcomes.

In response to the Sanitation Appropriate for Education (SAFE) Initiative, launched by the President during 2018, Minister Motshekga said that, "for the 2019/20 financial year, National Treasury made available R700 million for the first phase of the SAFE Initiative".

In conclusion, the Minister appealed to South Africans to rally behind Government to address the social ills facing learners and institutions. "Education is a societal issue and we must always remind ourselves that it takes a village to raise a child and that South Africans have a responsibility towards the well-being of our children".

International Symposium deliberates Sexuality Education in the digital space



The Director for Health Promotion, Mr Muzi Ndlovu and Mr Elijah Mhlanga, Chief Director for Communication are this week attending an International Symposium on Sexuality Education in Istanbul, Turkey.

The conference, taking place from 19 to 21 February 2020, sought to encourage robust dialogue on the topic under the theme, “Switched On: Sexuality Education in the digital space”. The symposium ends this afternoon.

A total of 170 delegates from 70 countries deliberated the role of digital communication and social media, as well as the risks and opportunities involved, in respect of providing the youth with information on Sexuality Education.

“We have learned that the challenges we face in South Africa are the same as elsewhere in the world, so for all of us getting together to find solutions is quite empowering. Sexuality Education is a universal matter that requires collaboration across a whole range of stakeholders. The era of finger-pointing must end,” said Mhlanga, speaking from Istanbul.

Many learners approach adulthood faced with conflicting, negative and confusing messages about sexuality that are often exacerbated by embarrassment and silence from adults, including parents and teachers. They then turn to their peers and to the digital space for information and guidance.

In many societies, attitudes and laws discourage public discussion of sexuality and sexual behaviour, and social norms may perpetuate harmful conditions, for example gender inequality in relation to sexual relationships, family planning and modern contraceptive use. Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) plays a central role in the preparation of young people for a safe, productive, fulfilling life in a world where HIV and AIDS, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), unintended pregnancies, GBV and gender inequality continue to pose serious risks to learner well-being.

In South Africa, CSE has been part of the Life Orientation subject in schools since the year 2000, and no new content has been added to the curriculum. The DBE has developed Scripted Lesson Plans to empower teachers and CSE is currently being piloted in five provinces where sexual abuse, high pregnancy rates and high HIV prevalence is a challenge.

Director-General Mweli encourages provincial officials and district directors to prioritise underperforming schools in 2020



Pressure is mounting for education stakeholders in the KwaZulu-Natal Province as they are expected to set higher targets for the 2020 National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examinations. The majority of education districts in the province showed an improvement in their results, making their province one of the most improved provinces in terms of the 2019 NSC Examination results. Of the 12 education districts, five performed below 80% in 2019. According to the NSC Examination Report, the province registered a 5.6% improvement, with an overall performance of 81.30% in 2019, as compared to 76.20% in 2018.

During this week, Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mweli, accompanied by Curriculum and Examination experts, visited the KwaZulu-Natal Province to engage more than 3,000 education stakeholders comprising of district officials, circuit managers and school principals. The Director-General is consistently engaging officials at provincial and district level, to analyse the impact of several strategies and measures initiated to improve results in underperforming districts and schools.

In his interactive session with school principals, Mr Mweli highlighted that the province continues to present the highest volume of learners who register for the NSC Examinations annually. He further explained: "It is essential to work closely with provinces such as KwaZulu-Natal because its performance has a high chance of influencing the national overall performance. I implore education stakeholders in this province to empower education districts, especially in the area of curriculum coverage and intervention support. I do believe that the province has the potential to rise to the top, but District Directors need to share best practices by way of twinning underperforming schools with the best performing schools in their respective districts". Mr Mweli further encouraged provincial officials to provide education districts with digital resources so that they can administer schools with the consideration of data driven approaches.

KwaZulu-Natal Deputy Director-General for Curriculum, Dr Barney Mthembu, acknowledged the work done by the DBE in engaging provinces, saying it will enlighten the provincial officials on areas of improvement that still need urgent attention. "Our main focus in 2020 is to improve learning outcomes in those schools that performed below 80% in 2019," concluded Dr Mthembu.



Declining subjects flagged during the provincial engagement in KwaZulu-Natal Province

The Basic Education Sector is making inroads in terms of improving effective implementation of the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statements in schools. Of the 67 subjects presented for the 2019 standardisation processes, 47 subjects' raw marks were accepted, with 13 subjects having been adjusted upwards and seven subjects adjusted downwards.

Addressing provincial officials, Director for Curriculum Research, Dr Aaron Nkosi, indicated that the improvement of the results in 2020 will require the province to monitor and place more emphasis on declining subjects. These include technical subjects, Home Languages, Economics, History, Life Sciences, Mathematics and Mathematical Literacy.

He then outlined the 2020 subject focus areas for the province: "In Home Languages, education districts and schools are encouraged to build a data bank of previous question papers for comprehension in the classroom. They must also ensure that learners are exposed to extensive summary texts. In Accounting, as the Internal Moderators' report indicated, learners perform poorly in Grade 10 and 11, especially in topics such as Fixed Assets, Reconciliations and Budgets. Therefore, teachers must go beyond focusing only on the preparation of financial statements. Equal attention must be devoted to analysis and interpretation, and this must be represented in the formative (informal) assessment activities. In Mathematics, learners seem to be lacking the Algebraic skills, which are critical because they assist learners in answering complex questions correctly. These skills should be mastered in earlier grades including Grades 8, 9 and 10. Teachers should further teach learners to interpret information or provide justification where necessary".

Dr Nkosi advised provincial and district officials to consider an in-depth profiling of the Class of 2020: "You will be expected to apply targeted interventions for progressed learners and insist on quarterly tracking of learner performance per subject and per grade, as this will assist in sustaining the provincial overall performance".



Ensuring Home Education in the best interest of the learner

A Home Education Roundtable will be taking place at the DBE Building in Pretoria, Gauteng Province, on 28 February 2020. Home Education is recognised in Section 51 of the *South African Schools Act* (SASA), Act 84 of 1996, as a lawful alternative for providing education. The Home Education Roundtable, which will be taking place under the theme, “Home Education in the best interest of the learner,” will strengthen collaboration and provide a platform for sharing insights into effective implementation.

During 1999, the then Department of Education (DOE) promulgated a Policy for the registration of learners in Home Education; however, the Policy could not be implemented effectively due to gaps and inconsistencies. The Policy was therefore reviewed and the areas of concern strengthened after consultation meetings with stakeholders. The *Policy on Home Education* was promulgated in November 2018, and is in its early stages of implementation.

The Roundtable will contribute to the development and implementation of a Strategy and Sector Plan on Home Education by engaging role players such as parents, government departments, independent curriculum providers and other important role players in Home Education, in a robust discussion around their respective roles and responsibilities. In addition, coordination on implementation, monitoring and evaluation will ensure that collaborate efforts are strengthened.



Writing of the 2020 May/June NSC and SC examination



The 2020 May/June National Senior Certificate (NSC) or Senior Certificate (SC) examination will be written from 4 May to 12 June 2020, following the same format and structure as the 2019 May/June examination. This examination is identical to the November 2019 NSC examination, and offering similar subjects.

NSC candidates who wrote the November NSC examination, who do not meet the requirements of the NSC, but wish to improve their performance either in terms of the subject, or the type of pass obtained, may register to write the 2020 May/June examination; candidates who were indisposed due to ill-health or death in the immediate family; and progressed learners who opted for the multiple examinations opportunity (MEO) dispensation and wrote only a limited number of subjects and need to complete the outstanding subjects in the May/June 2020 examination, may register.

NSC candidates wishing to write the May/June examination must have completed his or her School Based Assessment (SBA), Practical Assessment Task (PAT), and Language Oral marks in the November 2019 NSC examination. Also, candidates may not register for a subject with a practical component, or for Languages, unless he/she had registered for such a subject in the November 2019 NSC examination, and has a mark for the PAT component in that subject or in the case of Languages, has an oral mark.

Senior Certificate (SC) candidates can register to write if they meet the following criteria: are adult candidates who are 21 years and older who have either a GETC, a Grade 9 school report or a recognised equivalent qualification obtained at NQF Level; adult candidates with an incomplete Senior Certificate qualification written prior to 2015, who are 21 years and older on the first day of the month in which the 2020 May/June examination is conducted; out-of-school-youth between the age of 18 to 21 years old who could not complete their FET school education and who can no longer be accommodated in the school system due to special circumstances as verified by the Head of Department; and any NSC/SC candidate who wants to improve his/her results.

Learners encouraged to enter 2020 SADC Secondary School Essay Competition



2020 SADC SECONDARY SCHOOL ESSAY COMPETITION

1. ELIGIBILITY:

All secondary school going students from all 16 SADC Member States are welcome to participate in the Competition.

2. TOPIC:

The topic for the 2020 SADC Secondary School Essay Competition is *"How can a conducive environment for Industrial development and intra-regional trade, create jobs for SADC citizens?"*

Discuss *how a conducive environment for Industrial development and intra-regional trade, create jobs for SADC citizens.*



basic education
Department of
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Read to Lead
A Reading Nation is a Leading Nation



Secondary school-going learners from all 16 Southern African Development Community (SADC) Member States are invited to participate in the 2020 SADC Secondary School Essay Competition. The SADC Competition was established by the SADC Council of Ministers to encourage learners in the Region to understand and advocate the SADC's role in support of equality, freedom, social justice, peace and security.

The topic for the 2020 SADC Secondary School Essay Competition is, "How can a conducive environment for Industrial development and intra-regional trade, create jobs for SADC citizens?". The topic is derived from the theme of the 39th Ordinary SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government held in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania on 17th August 2019, *"A Conducive Environment for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development, Increased Intra-Regional Trade and Job Creation"*.

Learners should forward their essays to their provincial coordinators by 28 March 2020. The three selected essays from each province will be forwarded to the DBE by 03 April 2020, and the three national winning essays will be submitted to the SADC Secretariat.

The SADC Secretariat has allocated a sum of US \$1000 as prize money for the national winners of the competition in each Member State. The prize money will be divided as follows: US \$500 for the first prize; US \$300 for the second prize; and US \$200 for the third prize. Each candidate will receive the equivalent of the prize money in South African Rands.

Click on the below link for the list of provincial coordinators, as well as additional information on the competition:

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



Education stalwarts honoured for excellence in teaching



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, took to the podium during the annual National Teaching Awards (NTA) to recognise and acknowledge the excellent work done by teachers. Through its NTAs, the DBE collaborate with various business partners to honour hard-working teachers who strive for excellence in grooming the young generation. The 20th NTAs took place at Soshanguve East Secondary School on 15 February 2020.

Minister in the Presidency, Mr Jackson Mthembu, said the nation must unite in uplifting the morale of teachers to enable them to do their work diligently. Minister Mthembu further encouraged parents to instil good values in their children so that they embrace teachers as role models in their lives. He further added: “The important work that teachers do in shaping society is often not recognised nor respected. As a former teacher myself, I know that teachers are indispensable. As a country, we are proud of your relentless pursuit of excellence amidst unfavourable conditions such as resource constraints, violent protests in our communities and the prevalence of alcohol and drug abuse and other social ills.”

Director for Continuing Professional Teacher Development (CPTD), Ms Veronica Hofmeester, said that, “the Basic Education Sector is one of the biggest systems in the country with a huge responsibility at hand. At the moment, the Sector consists of 25,154 schools that are served by 437,449 teachers. The overall learner enrolment stands at 12,819,542 learners in ordinary schools who are supported through 75 districts. Therefore, for the sector to excel in its mandate of delivering quality education, it requires extended support from the private sector. I would like to thank all education partners for their support and contribution in making the 20th NTAs a success.»

Minister Motshekga congratulated the NTA winners and thanked the teachers for assisting the DBE in delivering quality education. “We know the challenges you face as many of our children come from underprivileged families and economically deprived communities. Our mission is to realise the key priorities of the Sector and comply with our vision as contained in the NDP. Thank you for nurturing and developing these precious young people in your care to ensure that they reach their full potential,” said Minister Motshekga.

Provincial Round-up

Eastern Cape Province



Zamukukhanya Primary School in the Amathole West District in the Eastern Cape Province will be handed over to the community on Friday, 21 February 2020, as part of the Accelerated Schools Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (ASIDI). The keynote address will be delivered by Eastern Cape MEC, Mr Fuzile Gade. The ASIDI project is a national initiative, which is aimed at replacing all inappropriate school structures, nationally. The intention of this initiative is to restore the state of schools that were not conducive for learning. With a project such as ASIDI a long fight against inequality in the schooling system has been made possible. State of the art institutions that are built in the provinces through ASIDI have changed the learning approach for learners as they are now exposed to multimedia libraries, laboratories and Information Communication and Technology Centres.

Limpopo Province



Limpopo MEC for Education, Ms Polly Boshielo, recently handed over blankets and 192 mattresses to Setotolwane and 130 mattresses to Rethuseng Special Schools in Mankweng in the Capricorn District Municipality in the Limpopo Province. MEC Boshielo visited the two schools in January as part of the Back to School Campaign monitoring readiness and the start of the 2020 academic year. MEC Boshielo said, “Whatever little support we provide, it goes a long way in helping learners achieve their dreams. All we have to do is to make their learning and living environment as conducive as possible”. School Governing Bodies of both schools appreciated the MEC’s efforts in improving the living conditions of the learners at special schools. “We are delighted that working together, we are able to address some of the most immediate challenges. We need to collaborate more on matters of education”.

Western Cape Province



Fourteen learners were, this week, expelled because of violating the *Regulations for Safety Measures at Public Schools*, as well as their school’s code of conduct, putting themselves, other learners and educators at risk. Learner discipline in schools remains a big concern for the Western Cape Education Department, and the WCED, again reiterated that violence and physical or verbal abuse in Western Cape schools will not be tolerated as the rights of learners and educators who want to contribute towards quality teaching and learning must also be protected. “Our schools are places where learners should *Enter to Learn and Leave to Serve*. Gang affiliations, violence, verbal threats and substance abuse have no place in our schools. Schools must implement disciplinary action should learners transgress their codes of conduct. I will not hesitate to make a decision that is in the best interests of the other learners and educators of the school, when it comes to an individual being found guilty of dangerous, violent and offensive behaviour. Our schools must be places of learning and nothing else,” said Education MEC, Ms Debbie Schäffer.

Upcoming Events

- 18 – 24 February 2020: Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mwel, will be engaging with district and provincial officials during his Provincial Engagement Visits to the KwaZulu-Natal Province
- 21 – 22 February 2020: A Think Tank will be convening at Emperors Palace in Kempton Park, Gauteng Province to discuss the establishment of Focus Schools under the theme: “Equipping learners with skills for the changing world”
- 22 February 2020: A preparatory meeting will be taking place at Emperors Palace in Kempton Park, Gauteng Province to plan for the Mathematics Indaba that will be taking place towards the end of February 2020
- 26 February – 02 March 2020: Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mwel, will be engaging with district and provincial officials during his Provincial Engagement Visits to the Gauteng Province
- 28 February 2020: A Home Education Round Table will be taking place at the DBE Building in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 03 – 11 March 2020: Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mwel, will be engaging with district and provincial officials during his Provincial Engagement Visits to the Limpopo Province
- 12 – 16 March 2020: Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mwel, will be engaging with district and provincial officials during his Provincial Engagement Visits to the Western Cape Province
- 13 March 2020: The DBE National Excellence Awards for Districts and Schools will be taking place at the Glen High School in Waterkloof Glen in Pretoria, Gauteng Province

Enquiries:

Editor: Mr Elijah Mhlanga

Chief Director: Media Liaison - National and Provincial Communication

Tel. No: 012 357 3773