



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



NEWSLETTER

Minister Motshekga delivers keynote address during Matthew Goniwe Memorial Lecture in Auckland Park, SABC



“Excellence in the basic education sector is not a choice, but an integral part of building a high performing public schooling system in our country. We have to have our own *“new dawn”* in the sector for us to truly be the repositories of the dreams of millions of our children,” said Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, in her keynote address during the Matthew Goniwe Lecture held on 10 May 2018 at the SABC in Auckland Park under the theme: “The Pursuit of Excellence in Learning and Teaching in the 21st Century”.

“In commemorating the life and times of the legendary educationist and anti-apartheid activist, we must not do so for the sake of nostalgia, but for the future. Ntate Goniwe was ahead of the pack. He understood the four essential rules of teaching and learning in the 21st century. In the main, Goniwe

knew that education was a stepladder out of poverty, oppression and hopelessness. He delivered education for liberation. This explains why he was a brilliant teacher because he understood that learners come from a community hence; he was also a community leader. He also understood that teaching must be located within a context; hence he took up the cudgels to liberate his people. He was guided by the principle that we are citizens before we become professionals, hence he could manage all these roles seamlessly. He viewed these roles as complementary and in the service of humanity,” said Minister Motshekga.

In her speech, the Minister made reference to the Standards for Principalship; the development of teachers; and to teacher self-diagnostic assessments in order to see where development needs should be emphasised for the basic education sector to tackle the 21st Century head-on. Minister Motshekga subsequently highlighted education researcher Jennifer Rita Nichols’s four Essential Rules of 21st Century learning as a good guideline for the sector. To prepare for the hurricane that’s the Fourth Industrial Revolution, the use of Information Communication and Technology (ICT) is essential to prepare qualified and competent school leaders who will be able to produce critical thinkers who can face any unpredictable and unforeseen future.

Minister Motshekga delivers 2018/2019 Basic Education Budget Vote in Parliament



The Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga, MP, delivered the Basic Education Budget Vote for the 2018/19 financial year in the National Assembly in Cape Town on 09 May 2018. The Minister did not only outline the plans and strategies put in place to improve the outcomes for the sector during the 2018/2019 financial year, but also reflected on the significant achievements made by the basic education sector in terms of improving quality teaching and learning in all public schools.

The overall 2018/19 MTEF budget allocation for the Department of Basic Education is just under twenty three billion Rands (R23 billion), which as a result of the austerity measures, was decreased by three percent (3%) from the 2017/18 allocation.

Outlining the performance of the sector, Minister Motshekga said: “We have brought about stability in curriculum implementation, which has led to a sustained improvement of the teaching and learning outcomes, and strengthened our National Curriculum Statements through the introduction of the Curriculum Assessment Policy Statements (CAPS), which is viewed as one of the best in the world.”

“We have repositioned and strengthened the alignment of the basic education sector, in preparation for providing young people with skills, competencies, and knowledge for the changing world through the implementation of the Three-Stream Curriculum Model, the Fourth Industrial Revolution, Entrepreneurship, and the UNESCO International Bureau of Education Framework for Future Skills and Competencies.” The Minister added that a solid foundation for accountability in provincial efforts to provide quality education has been established through quarterly meetings with District Directors and annual meetings with provinces and a focus on our core business of teaching and learning in the classroom. The focus is on the foundational skills of reading, writing and counting (arithmetic), as well as having the basic necessities in place for quality teaching and learning to take place, especially in the early Grades.”

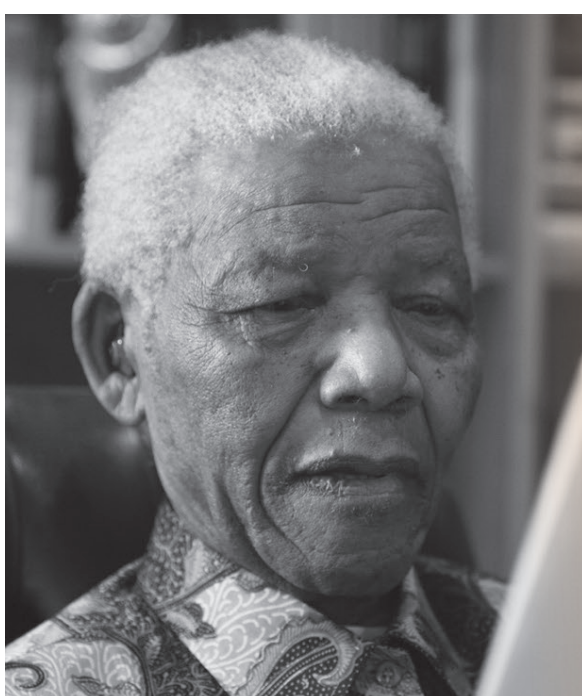
“Now that we have laid a solid foundation by advancing the implementation of social justice principles, the next, and the most immediate task in the sector is to deal with radical social transformation and cohesion. We have already identified and started to deal with these areas through the modality of Roundtable Discussions and other forms of engagement, with the context that education is a societal matter,” Minister Motshekga concluded.

Click on the below link for the Minister’s full Budget Vote Debate Speech for the 2018/19 Financial Year:

<https://www.education.gov.za/Newsroom/Speeches/tabid/950/ctl/Details/mid/7006/ItemID/5573/Default.aspx>



Marking President Nelson Mandela and Albertina Sisulu Centenary Celebrations



Minister Motshekga also utilised the Budget Vote Speech to mobilise the nation in marking the Centenary Celebrations of President Nelson Mandela and Albertina Sisulu, echoing President Cyril Ramaphosa sentiments during his inaugural State of the Nation Address: “We honour President Mandela and umama Sisulu *in a year of change, a year of renewal, a year of hope*. Through the Centenary Celebrations of their lives, we are not merely honouring the past, we are building the future – yes, a *new dawn* for South Africa”.

In light of the above, Minister Motshekga said the Department aims to phase in a new-look curriculum on History over seven years as Government intensifies its efforts to usher in radical economic transformation, adding that the curriculum needs to evolve to respond to current dynamics.



Minister Motshekga mentioned that a report of the task team that was established to look at making History compulsory would be released during Africa Month, and thereafter interested parties would be invited to provide input on the report through nationwide consultations in what will be a “festival of ideas” on what the History curriculum should look like.

“History is about history teaching, helping us with cohesion, with nation building, with redress, but also creating or teaching our kids about South Africa to enable us to have an African perspective, we don’t have a Eurocentric history in the context of Africa.”



#MaSisulu100

<https://www.gov.za/masisulu100>*A Woman of Fortitude***ALBERTINA SISULU**
Centenary
2018

92 Teacher Centre Managers upskilled



A total of 92 Teacher Centre Managers from across all nine provinces attended a five day workshop aimed at strengthening the integration of Information Communication and Technology (ICT) with classroom activities in public schools. The workshop, which was facilitated by the DBE in partnership with Vodacom, took place at OR Tambo Protea Hotel in the Gauteng Province from 06 to 10 May 2018. During the workshop, Centre Managers were inducted on the Moodle DBE Cloud, which allow users to create their own courses, and retrieve learning and teaching support material and other online resources. The workshop further exposed the participants to Office 365 Skype for Business, which allows effective interaction amongst teachers through the utilisation of Teacher Centres operating in the various provinces.

In his address, Dr Aaron Nkosi, Director for Maths, Science and Technology (MST), E-learning and Research, indicated: “The reality is that ICT is currently converting a normal classroom setting into a digital learning space. We need to *up our game* to ensure that learning and teaching occurs beyond the traditional classroom context. The demands of the Fourth Industrial Revolution will catch us on our back foot if we do not strengthen the utilisation of resources we have in Teacher Centres. We are gathered here to equip you as ICT ambassadors to improve effective functionality of these centres in all nine provinces”.

Explaining the significant role played by Centre Managers, Dr Nkosi, highlighted: “Our view is that Centre Managers, some of them ICT experts, should assist the DBE to deal with ICT integration challenges and expose struggling teachers to good practices. Centre Managers bring added value in dealing with issues of trouble shooting where maintenance is needed. The DBE, together with partners will have to work hard to ensure all necessary mechanisms such e-beams, skyping and video conferencing facilities are fully utilised to facilitate digital learning in rural schools. In conclusion, Dr Nkosi said the DBE will be sending a team of ICT experts to monitor effective functionality of Teacher Centres whilst exploring other mechanisms that can be adopted in strengthening the ICT application.

Click on the below link for the full article:

[92TeacherCentreManagersupskilled](#)

Language as a means of holistic learner development



The issue of learner attainment in languages, as well as the use of languages as a vehicle of learning, is currently in the spotlight. The DBE is doubling its efforts in flagging the importance of languages, as well as the role that languages have on the holistic development of the learner's academic performance.

Chief Education Specialist for Languages, Mr Mmboniseni Nematangari, explained that, “in the light of Summative Assessment, the sector is doing well because learning is facilitated through a fixed programme for formal assessment tasks for each subject. This programme stipulates the number of formal assessment tasks for each subject per term, per grade and that all schools comply with the programme prescripts as required. The challenges with School Based Assessment (SBA) is on the formative/informal assessment (assessment for learning) since there is no uniform standard. Schools do formative assessment activities differently as there is no standardised programme in place. This leaves teachers with no solid mechanisms to measure effective learning and teaching in their classrooms. As a result we cannot account for effective curriculum coverage.

The DBE is busy developing the norms for reading and writing for both the GET and the FET bands. The reading and writing norms will, amongst other things, prescribe the number of written activities or tasks that learners should do per week, per term and per annum. For extended reading, it will norm the number of books (titles) to be read by learners per week, per term and per annum. We will also norm the reading timetable to account for optimal utilisation of time allocated for reading in all schools. It is envisioned that these efforts will stimulate a reading culture during school hours and at home. We are also in the process of developing a guide on teaching and assessing reading comprehension so that learning gaps identified by the *Progress in International Reading Literacy Study* (PIRLS) can be addressed.”

Mr Bulara Monyaki, Chief Education Specialist for Languages, added that the DBE hosted a National Reading Workshop in Pretoria from 18 to 19 April 2018, with the purpose of developing a National Framework in an attempt to strengthen the teaching of reading in African Languages. In response to the unsatisfactory performance of our learners in the PIRLS, the Workshop succeeded in yielding a draft framework for reading, and for approaches to reading in African Languages.

Click on the below link for the full article:

[LanguageasaMeansofHolisticLearnerDevelopment](#)

Draft *Guidelines on the Preparation of Financial Statements in Public Schools*



The DBE entered into an agreement with the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) to establish a SGB support project aimed at placing qualified graduates from TVET colleges in public schools. This agreement will assist in the preparation of financial statements and the development of Guidelines for the preparation of financial statements in public schools. The DBE and SAICA aspire to pilot the placement of graduates for an eighteen month period in 100 public ordinary schools across all provinces.

Provincial Education Departments (PEDS) will be provided with an opportunity to select the schools and TVET graduates from their respective provinces. Graduates will be recruited from the province in which they will be performing their internship programme. Funding will be made available through the Skills Development Levy in consultation with the DBE and various provinces. SAICA together with the DBE, developed a Guideline for preparation of financial statements in public schools. This initiative addresses the need for a consistent set of financial statements that are required to be determined by the Member of the Executive Council for a province as per Section 42 (b) of the *South African Schools Act*.

Ms Devoshum Moodley-Veera, Director: Sector Audit Outcomes, highlighted that “the non-existence of guidelines for the preparation of financial statements provided limitations for auditing the financial statements. Auditors are unable to audit against any procedures or standards and some auditors decline auditing the financial statements of schools. At times, auditors and bookkeepers play a dual role which is in contravention with the *Auditing Profession Act*. Some schools are provided with disclaimers or limitation of scope when audited by registered auditors due to the non-existence of guidelines.

Sector Audit Outcomes therefore invite comments on the Guidelines. The deadline for comments is 09 June 2018. All comments and queries should be submitted to:

Email: Moodley.d@dbe.gov.za or Tel no: 012 357 3857.

Click on the below link to view the Guidelines:

[GuidelinesforPreparationofPublicSchoolFinancialStatements](#)

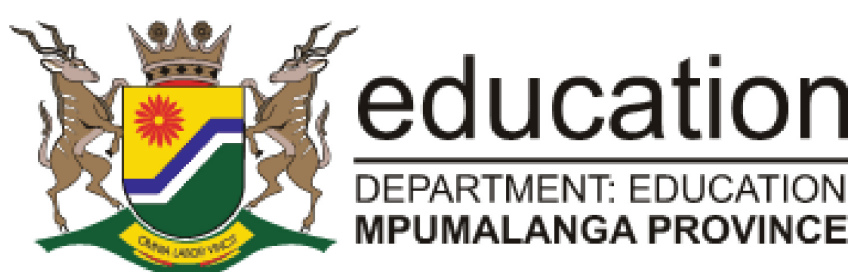
Provincial Round-up

Eastern Cape Province



Eastern Cape police have called on parents in the Province to be vigilant and ensure their children do not take dangerous weapons, drugs and alcohol to school. They also appealed to parents to monitor their children's cellphones to ensure that they do not use prohibited links or delve into the world of pornography. This message was delivered by Lusikisiki cluster spokeswoman, Captain Nozuko Handile and Butterworth spokesman, Captain Jackson Manatha on 07 May 2018, after police raids on schools yielded a number of dangerous weapons, including guns and ammunition, as well as drugs and alcohol.

Mpumalanga Province



Mpumalanga MEC, Mr Sibusiso Malaza, Gert Sibande District Executive Mayor, Councillor Muzi Chirwa and Executive Mayor of Msukaligwa, Councillor BJ Mkhalihi, visited Lindile Secondary School in Ermelo Msukaligwa Local Municipality on 07 May 2018. Lindile Secondary School had been experiencing a challenge with their sewerage system. The matter was brought to the attention of the Mpumalanga Department of Education for their intervention. A contractor was subsequently appointed to tend to the problem and to assist with the refurbishment of the school. The MEC used the visit to monitor progress and to ensure the acceleration of the project. The MEC also used the opportunity to motivate learners and to encourage teachers to improve learning and teaching at the school that had a 75.5% pass rate for the 2017 National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examination results.

Upcoming Events

- 17 May 2018: A Lunchbox Lekgotla seminar will be taking place at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 27 May – 03 June 2018: Child Protection Week will be launched in the Eastern Cape Province
- 01 June 2018: The National Bullying Prevention Campaign will be launched at Daxina Primary School in Lenasia, Gauteng Province
- 10 – 14 June 2018: A SA-SAMS/EMIS Workshop will be hosted at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province, to share best practice with representatives of the Kingdom of Eswatini
- 21 June 2018: A Lunchbox Lekgotla seminar will be taking place at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 26 – 29 June 2018: The annual ABC Motsepe Schools Choral Eisteddfod will be taking place at the Rhema Church in Randburg, Gauteng Province
- 05 – 06 July 2018: Minister Angie Motshekga will be hosting her second quarter meeting with District Directors at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 19 July 2018: A Lunchbox Lekgotla seminar will be taking place at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 27 – 29 July 2018: The national finals of the Youth Citizens Action Programme (YCAP) 2018 will be hosted in the Eastern Cape Province
- 16 August 2018: A Lunchbox Lekgotla seminar will be taking place at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 20 September 2018: A Lunchbox Lekgotla seminar will be taking place at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 20 – 21 September 2018: Minister Angie Motshekga will be hosting her third quarter meeting with District Directors at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 28 – 30 September 2018: The annual iNkosi Albert Luthuli Oral History Programme will be taking place at Freedom Park, Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 03 – 07 October 2018: The national finals of the Eighth National Schools Moot Court Competition will be hosted at the Constitutional Court in Johannesburg, Gauteng Province
- 06 October 2018: The National Spelling Bee Championships will be hosted at the ZK Matthews Auditorium, Unisa in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 06 – 07 December 2018: Minister Angie Motshekga will be hosting her fourth quarter meeting with District Directors at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province



**NDP 2030: one nation,
ONE PLAN**

OUR FUTURE, MAKE IT WORK!