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THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



NEWSLETTER

Annual ABC Motsepe SASCE Competition underway in the various provinces



Schools are battling it out for the 2018 annual ABC Motsepe South African Schools Choir Eisteddfod (SASCE) Competition and are competing at provincial level to qualify for the National Competition that will be taking place at the Rhema Bible Church in Randburg from 26 to 29 June 2018. The Provincial Competitions will be hosted in the various provinces from 22 May 2018 until 03 June 2018.

The theme for the 2018 annual ABC Motsepe SASCE Competition forms part of the Centenary Celebrations in honour of Former President Nelson Mandela and Ms Albertina Sisulu through song.

Mr Sifiso Ngobese, Director from the Sport and Enrichment in Education Directorate, and the chairperson of the National Co-ordinating Committee, indicated that the Competition has played a crucial role in promoting inclusivity, social cohesion and cultural tolerance among South African learners. "The Competition also affords Government an opportunity to nurture and develop musical talent among learners at primary and secondary school level. I would like to congratulate the Provincial Co-ordinating Committee for having ensured that school choirs and soloists were registered for the competition well in advance. Teachers must also be commended for having lobbied for mass participation in the Competition. I am confident that the Competition will continue to make a significant contribution to the holistic development of learners, both academically and musically, by way of promoting team work and time management."

According to Ms Tiisetjo Maloba, the standard of the Competition has been improving annually. It is important that choirs that qualify for both the Provincial and National Championships concentrate on the adjudicators' remarks to improve their performances. Ms Maloba advised choirs that would be competing in the Folklore Category to remain authentic to their respective cultures and languages so that the messages communicated through their cultural performances are not misinterpreted by the audience.

During the National Competition, the winner in each category will be awarded a trophy, a certificate and a cash prize. The three winners in the various categories will walk away with R10,000 for the top winner, R7,500 for the second place winner and R5,000 for the third place winner.



DBE and Nestlé launch global initiative to help children lead healthier lives



In a global initiative which aims to help 50 million children by 2030, Nestlé South Africa has announced its *Nestlé for Healthier Kids* initiative. The initiative was launched at the Department of Basic Education (DBE) in Pretoria on the United Nations International Day of Families, 15 May 2018, under the theme “Enhancing nutrition and physical education programmes to promote health and wellbeing of children”. The initiative is geared towards promoting the overall health and wellbeing of learners in the Foundation and Senior phases.

Basic Education’s National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) Director, Ms Neo Rakwena, and Mr Monako Dibetle from Nestlé South Africa, was part of the panel discussion on nutrition and physical education, targeted at nutritionists and physical education experts to strengthen the holistic development of children. The key issues that were raised as part of the panel discussion was the strategy of prevention and control of obesity in South Africa amongst school-going children; the promotion of nutrition and physical education during school hours and at home; and the mobilisation of the private sector in increasing food security by way of strengthening school gardens.

Since its foundation, Nestlé has been committed to helping parents and caregivers provide the correct nutrition to their children. Through this initiative, Nestlé South Africa aims to reach over 50% of South African primary school learners by 2020. In 2017 alone, the company launched more than 1,000 new products to meet the nutritional needs of children. In the same year, it provided 174 billion servings of fortified foods and beverages in 66 countries in which people lack essential micronutrients such as iron, iodine and vitamin A.

The impact of the initiative will be measured by a nutrition education study undertaken by the Vaal University of Technology to measure impact. The results of the study are due later this year and will be used to enhance the current Life Skills curriculum.

The DBE, through the NSNP, aims to enhance the learning capacity of students through the provision of healthy meals at schools. Where implemented, the programme has been shown to improve punctuality, regular school attendance, concentration as well as the general wellbeing of learners. “The NSNP aims to address risk factors related to malnutrition and under-nourishment in our learners. The programme also addresses issues of access to food and food security. Our partnership with *Nestlé for Healthier Kids* is a platform that can enhance this programme even further through nutrition and quality physical education,” added Ms Rakwena.



DBE conducts workshop with the Australian Council for Education Research on Systemic Evaluation



During 2018, the DBE will usher in the first cycle of the new Systemic Evaluation model, a programme designed to provide reliable information on system performance by understanding levels of learner achievement and the context of support provided to learners within the basic education system. The overall purpose of the workshop that was held on 11 May 2018 at the DBE in Pretoria, was to initiate a partnership programme between the DBE and the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) with the view to best support the implementation of a Systemic Evaluation model which is scheduled for October 2018.

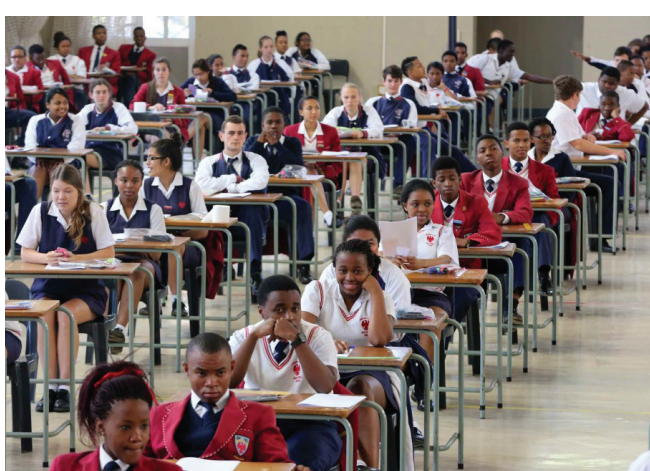
The partnership initiation programme aims to achieve: further clarification of the overall purposes, conception and methodology of Systemic Evaluation; discussion of important implications for the different components, i.e. the learner performance component and the contextual components; and further strengthening of test development capacity in Mathematics and Languages, the two domains of the learner performance component of the Systemic Evaluation.

Given the complexities of the Systemic Evaluation model, part of the agreed next steps in the implementation plan for 2018, was for the DBE to partner with an international agency with the necessary expertise in the development of suitable testing instruments and contextual questionnaires for large-scale assessment designs. ACER is considered as one of the world's leading educational research centres and one that has built a strong reputation as a provider of reliable support and expertise to education policymakers and professional practitioners since it was established in 1930. The partnership initiation programme with ACER also aims to identify the important areas for further developing and implementing the Systemic Evaluation model, and the main areas of collaboration for an ongoing, effective and fruitful partnership between the DBE and ACER.

The test instruments and contextual questionnaires are being finalised for the pilot study to be conducted during October 2018. The aim is to have these instruments and their underlying frameworks verified by ACER before they are field tested. The pilot study will be conducted in approximately 140 schools involving almost 4200 learners.

Although the Systemic Evaluation (SE) model emanated from discussions with stakeholders as a replacement model for the Annual National Assessment (ANA), there are distinct differences between the two forms of national assessments. Three key differences include: The ANA cycle was annual while SE takes place every 3 years. The ANA was a census study written in Grades 1 to 6 and Grade 9, whereas the SE model assesses a representative sample of learners and schools. SE has a stronger focus on examining the contextual factors that characterise the support provided to learners.

National Assessment and Public Examinations conducts Provincial Review Visits



The National Assessment and Public Examinations (NAPE) Chief Directorate is currently conducting Provincial Review Visits to all nine Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) from 08 May to 20 June 2018.

The NAPE Chief Directorate conducts monitoring and support visits to all PEDs at the beginning of each year to reflect on the effectiveness of the previous year's examination management systems and processes, and to prepare the system for the conduct and administration of the current year's Senior Certificate (SC) and National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations respectively. These also include additional support visits that may be related to specific risk issues identified in a province and to track the progress achieved.

The Department of Basic Education (DBE) has a constitutional mandate to ensure that PEDs are empowered to effectively and efficiently administer the NSC examinations. In line with the Minister's mandate to ensure that norms and standards for the SC and NSC examinations are maintained across the system, one of the main objectives of the NAPE Chief Directorate is to ensure that credible public examinations are conducted across all provinces.

School Improvement Support: Lessons from the field



The strengthening of data utilisation in crafting performance improvement interventions is a critical component of the work of the education sector. The DBE and Provincial Departments of Education (PEDs) are currently working together to ensure the development of evidence-based interventions through the School Improvement Support Co-ordinators (SISCOS), a DBE team based in the provinces and led by Project Managers. The responsibilities of the team include working with District Officials, especially Circuit Managers, to strengthen the utilisation of data in crafting data-informed Circuit Improvement Plans (CIPs). The intention is to enhance the strategic management of schools to ensure that performance is improved.

Mr Jabulani Ngcobo, Deputy Director from the PDOU, who oversees the work of these officials said: “Our mandate remains the *National Development Plan* (NDP) and Goal 27 of the *Action Plan 2019: Towards the Realisation of Schooling 2030*, and Goal 27 in particular, “*to improve the frequency and quality of support provided to schools by District Offices*”. The intention is not to take over circuit functions or impose a *once size fits all* approach, but to provide support based on the specific needs of circuits. The intention is, therefore, to find innovative ways to support strategies to improve performance in the targeted circuits”.

Often, when some parts of the system are underperforming, every official wants to be there to contribute to the improvement of performance. However, some of the lessons learned from working with Circuit Managers to strengthen the utilisation of performance data in the system indicated that officials may need to take cognisance of the following in order to contribute effectively

Click on the below link to view some of the lessons learned:

<https://www.education.gov.za/ArchivedDocuments/ArchivedArticles/SchoolImprovementSupport0518.aspx>



Provincial Round-up

KwaZulu-Natal Province



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PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

The Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga, together with KwaZulu-Natal Education MEC, Mr Mthandeni Dlungwana, met in Umhlanga on 15 May 2018 to discuss various challenges that the Province is facing. Senior DBE and Provincial officials attended the session. The Minister and the MEC deliberated on the issues that had been identified by the Minister as part of her oversight function and agreed on a process to address all the issues as a matter of urgency.

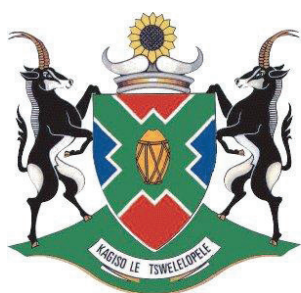
“KwaZulu-Natal is an important province because 25% of the basic education sector’s learners are in the province. It is for that reason that we are here on an oversight visit to support the province to make sure that all the challenges that have been identified are dealt with. The performance of this province has an impact on the results of the entire country which is why we need to make sure that it is assisted to function at the right level,” Minister Motshekga said.

The status of the NSNP in the Province also came under the spotlight. Other issues dealt with included textbook delivery, school furniture, undocumented learners, the procurement of sanitary pads and the vacancy rate which, the Minister said, was very high in critical positions. “Make sure to meet unions and School Governing Bodies (SGBs) on a regular basis. Nurture and protect the relationships. If we do that we will be able to avoid unnecessary protests that disrupt learning and teaching in our schools,” Minister Motshekga concluded.

Click on the below link for the media release:

<https://www.education.gov.za/Newsroom/MediaReleases/tabid/347/ctl/Details/mid/7002/ItemID/5575/Default.aspx>

North West Province



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Lefapha la Thuto

Onderwys Departement

Department of Education

NORTH WEST PROVINCE

Minister Motshekga visited the North West Province on 17 May 2018 as part of her oversight work in all Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) to ensure that all the challenges that have been identified are dealt with. The performance of PEDs impacts on the results of the entire country. For this reason the DBE is involved in monitoring and oversight to ensure the optimal functioning of the Province.

KwaZulu-Natal Province



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PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

The DBE and the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education has a sustained partnership with the *Art of Living Foundation* and over the past five years has seen the continued improvement of the participation of provincial schools in the *Global Peace Initiative by Africa* for Africa. During 2018, the KZN Department of Education again accedes to the call by the *Art of Living Foundation* to get all schools within the Province to participate in this peace initiative during the period of 01-26 May 2018. All KZN schools are requested to comply by reciting the Africa Peace Prayer at their respective assemblies for the duration of Africa Month. Schools are further requested to record the number of learners and educators that have participated per session by capturing their information on their website: www.imeditateafrica.org.

Mpumalanga Province



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DEPARTMENT: EDUCATION

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

The Mpumalanga Education MEC, Mr Sibusiso Malaza, held the Inaugural Meeting for the newly elected Members of the School Governing Bodies (SGBs) at the Steve Tshwete Banquet Hall in the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, on Thursday 17 May 2018.

Upcoming Events

- 19 May 2018: The DBE will be participating in a career expo for Grade 8 to 12 learners at the Hope Restoration Ministries in Midrand, Gauteng Province
- 22 – 25 May 2018: The Annual ABC Motsepe SASCE Provincial Competition will be taking place at the Mogale City Centenary Hall in the Gauteng Province
- 24 – 26 May 2018: The Annual ABC Motsepe SASCE Provincial Competition will be taking place at the Mittah Seperepere Convention Centre in the Northern Cape Province
- 24 – 26 May 2018: The Annual ABC Motsepe SASCE Provincial Competition will be taking place in Bloemfontein in the Free State Province
- 24 – 27 May 2018: The Annual ABC Motsepe SASCE Provincial Competition will be taking place in Mthatha in the Eastern Cape Province
- 25 – 27 May 2018: The Annual ABC Motsepe SASCE Provincial Competition will be taking place at the Witbank Civic Theatre in the Mpumalanga Province
- 27 May – 03 June 2018: Child Protection Week will be launched in the Eastern Cape Province
- 31 May – 02 June 2018: The Annual ABC Motsepe SASCE Provincial Competition will be taking place at the Mmabatho Convention Centre in the North West Province
- 31 May – 02 June 2018: The Annual ABC Motsepe SASCE Provincial Competition will be taking place at the Durban Playhouse in the KwaZulu-Natal Province
- 31 May – 03 June 2018: The Annual ABC Motsepe SASCE Provincial Competition will be taking place at the Western Cape Sport School, Cape Town in the Western Cape Province
- 01 June – 03 June 2018: The Annual ABC Motsepe SASCE Provincial Competition will be taking place at the Bolivia Lodge in Polokwane in the Limpopo 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
- 12 – 13 June 2018: The National Care and Support for Teaching and Learning (CSTL) Conference will be taking place at the St George Hotel in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 14 June 2018: The National Council of Provinces Education Budget Vote Debate (NCOP) 2018 will be taking place in Parliament, Cape Town, Western Province
- 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 SASCE National Competition will be taking place at the Rhema Bible 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

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