



# THUTO

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THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



## NEWSLETTER

## DBE family pays tribute to education stalwart



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, joined by DBE senior managers and officials from various spheres of Government, gathered at the Department of Basic Education (DBE) Conference Centre on 24 May 2018, to pay tribute to Dr Morongwa Ramarumo, the former Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Kha Ri Gude Mass Literacy Campaign.

The Kha Ri Gude Campaign, also known as the Mass Literacy Campaign, has been commended for having responded to the Education For All (EFA) by changing the lives of more than 4.3 million illiterate adults who can now read and write in their own mother tongue and use spoken English. The Campaign has also enabled South Africa to reach the *Dakar EFA Declaration (2000)* of a 50% reduction in illiteracy. The programme also created more than 350,000 career opportunities for unemployed graduates and youth with a matric qualification in the past nine years and thus contributed to poverty alleviation.

Dr Ramarumo completed her Master's degree in comparative education under Prof Sarie Berkhout and her PhD in educational psychology under Prof Susan Kriegler, both of the University of Pretoria, from 1988 to 1992. She was the first black female to obtain a PhD in education back in 1992 and went on to become quite a trail blazer in the education landscape.

After completing her first qualification, Dr Ramarumo commenced her teaching career at the Latare High School as an assistant teacher from January 1981 to March 1983. She was later employed as a Head of Department at Thesele Secondary School from April 1983 to 1994. During her career as a teacher, she also worked as an examiner and marker of the Sesotho language. She was subsequently appointed as a Deputy Director at the national Department of Education in 1994, and as a Chief Education Specialist in 1996 at the Adult Education Section at the Department of Education.

During 2007 she assisted with material development for the Kha Ri Gude Mass Literacy Campaign which was initiated in 2008. In 2012, she was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Campaign until her retirement in 2017.

During the Campaign, Dr Ramarumo contributed immensely to the leadership of the Campaign and helped the programme to win various awards, including the 2016 UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy.

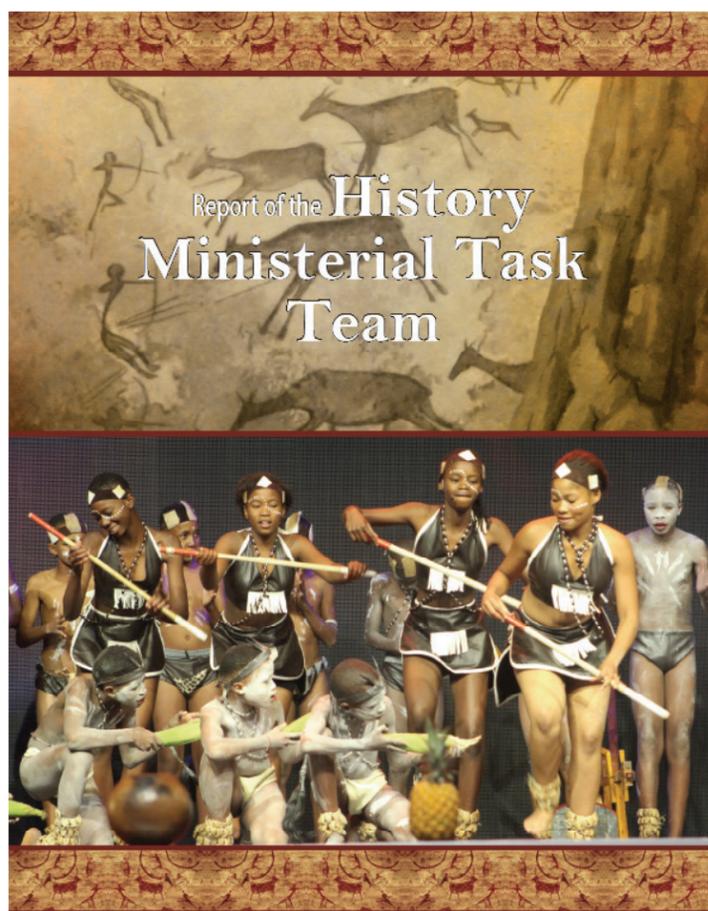
In her address, Minister Motshekga described Dr Ramarumo as a phenomenon and a brilliant woman who always showed respect to everyone around her. "Dr Ramarumo was extremely generous with time and resources. She was always there for everyone who needed her support and comfort. She will sorely be missed," said the Minister.

Dr Ramarumo's funeral will take place at the Gekombineerde Skool Noordelig, Benoni on 26 May 2018.





## Minister Motshckga officially receives and launches the Ministerial Task Team Report on History



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshckga, will be receiving the Ministerial Task Team (MTT) Report on the possibility of introducing History as a compulsory subject in the Further Education and Training (FET) band at a History Roundtable scheduled to take place at Freedom Park on 31 May 2018. The theme of the launch of the History report will be: “Re-writing our history from an African perspective”. The objective of the launch is to ignite rich debate and robust discussions around the History content to be included in the school curriculum.

Minister Motshckga appointed the MTT, led by Professor Sifiso Ndlovu from the South African Democracy Education Trust, and UNISA on 04 June 2015. The MTT’s terms of reference were to conduct a comparative international study on how best to implement the introduction of History as a compulsory subject in FET schools, including the consideration of it as part of “Citizenship” located within Life Orientation. The team was also responsible for the review and strengthening of the content of History in the FET and the General Education and Training (GET) bands.

Chief Education Specialist, Mr Pule Rakgoathe said, “History is considered to be a critical subject in advancing the ideals of a democratic South Africa whilst fostering social understanding and cohesion. It is only compulsory in the GET band, particularly in the intermediate and senior phases whilst it is an optional subject in FET (Grade 10 to 12).

The popularity of History is declining in some provinces; leading to the decline in the number of learners choosing to study the subject. Eventually young people will know little of their country and the society in which they live. As a result the youth will lose a sense of nationalism, patriotism and national unity derived through the study of History”.

Professor Sifiso Ndlovu indicated that strides have been made since the MTT was appointed saying, “The MTT managed to increase the scope of the initial comparative study by including countries such as China, India, Russia, Brazil, Nigeria, Rwanda and Zimbabwe. They also identified areas of weakness and strength focusing on the curriculum content in Grades 4 to 12”.

Minister Motshckga 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. “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,” said Minister Motshckga.

## DBE joins Hope Restoration Ministries in guiding minds and shaping future careers in Ekurhuleni



Efforts are underway to expose Grade 9 to 11 learners and parents to the Department of Basic Education's (DBE's) three stream model of Basic Education to address poverty, unemployment and inequality in relation to the provision of quality education.

Chief Director, Mr Elijah Mhlanga, presented the motivational talk to the hundreds of learners representing the thirteen high schools in the area to engage on career expo presentations.

"I am very excited for this day of visits and it reminds me that we have a particular responsibility to provide quality education and better support to our local schools and communities," said Mr Mhlanga. "Dream about the future. Creative thinking and solutions are the future. The Industrial Revolution and technology like robotics and digital technology form part of the future in Basic Education. Learners have to aspire towards entrepreneurship and access their success through job creation and innovation in the business environment."

"We recognise the particular challenges these learners face, but education is the gateway to the future for them. A failure to recognise this responsibility will result in a betrayal of the future and destiny of our children." Mr Mhlanga reiterated.

The expo covered a wide range of careers, including teacher recruitment on Funza Lushaka, Mathematics, Science and Technology Educators, robotics, media relations and broadcasting through CAPS Radio; UNISA on Research and Development on new innovation in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century; Wits and Tshwane University of Technology offering application guide packages on 2019 applications in all their faculties; and Sasol offering bursary applications to aspiring artisans and technicians on energy, including technical skills training.

Officials from the DBE, Wits University, TUT, UNISA, SASOL and EWC were on hand at the exhibition stalls to note the concerns raised by learners and to ensure proper guidance to the post-school education system to tackle the future confidently.

## DBE introduces a multi-million rand project to improve literacy and numeracy in rural schools



The DBE has introduced the Rural Education Assistant Project (REAP), which will be operated in the KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape and Limpopo Provinces from 2018 to 2021.

The flagship programme, which will reach out to 188 schools in the aforementioned provinces, will assist the DBE in improving the level of literacy and numeracy in the Foundation and Intermediate Phases. "Once piloted, the DBE will consider reviewing the project to cover a wider spectrum of the basic education sector. The R87,500 million project has been initiated for pilot testing, researching and evaluating the impact of the use of Education Assistants (EAs) in improving quality learning and teaching in schools. Through this programme, the Department aims to appoint 750 young people who have completed the National Senior Certificate with a pass in Mathematics or Mathematics Literacy, English First Additional Language and a Home Language in participating schools," remarked Rural Education Director, Dr Phumzille Langa.

"Learners between the ages of 18 to 25, who are residing within a 5km radius of the participating schools will be prioritised. The EAs will not be entitled to teach. As part of the project, each school will be provided with four education assistants to assist with a variety of curricular activities and co-curricular activities, particularly co-ordinating Homework Clubs, Mathematics Clubs, Reading Clubs, Creative Art Clubs and Agricultural Projects. The project will afford the youth of South Africa employment opportunities, work experience and guidance in career pathing. The project will expose these young people to the teaching profession. Apart from improving literacy and numeracy, the REAP targets 40% of EAs to enter the teaching profession."

"The money that Treasury has allocated to REAP, will also cover Agriculture Resources for School-Based Agricultural projects. The DBE will identify one school in the participating districts and provide it with Agriculture related resources including a green house. The aim is for the school to operate as a central distributor of seedlings for surrounding schools. This will result in a mushrooming of Agricultural projects in the identified districts," concluded Langa.

**Let us all protect children to move South Africa forward during Child Protection Week**



Child Protection Week (CPW) 2018 will be launched on 27 May 2018 during a media briefing and a roundtable discussion at GCIS, Hatfield in Pretoria. The launch will focus on violence in schools and on sexual abuse in particular. The wrap up event will be held on 03 June 2018 at Lady Brand in the Free State Province with the focus on undocumented children, unaccompanied minors and child labour. The DBE remains a critical role player because these learners are not able to proceed with their studies further than Grade 7, due to the challenges facing them.

The 2018 commemoration marks a major milestone in the history of child protection in the country as it coincides with the centenary celebrations of the life of the liberation struggle icons, Former President Nelson Mandela and Mama Albertina Sisulu. Tata Madiba had a tremendous love for children, particularly their care, protection and development. Mandela said at the United Nations Special Session on Children, New York, in 2002: “If we want the caring society we thought we were striving for during our fight against the inequities of apartheid, we must eradicate all traces of violence against and abuse of children. No form of violence can ever be excused in a society that wishes to call itself decent, but violence against children must surely rank as the most abominable expression of violence. It subjects the most vulnerable and the weakest to indignity, humiliation, degradation and injury.”

During CPW, the importance of Early Childhood Development (ECD) will be advocated. The *National Development Plan* (NDP) stipulates that “Several objectives outlined in the NDP are aligned to immediate and sustained future growth, such as improving the quality of education through high-quality ECD. The 2018 CPW will put emphasis on the importance of the first 1000 days of a child as the essential period for ECD. This is to strengthen prevention and early intervention programmes which will heighten the need to capacitate parents, ECD practitioners and the community at large.

In addition, Government is implementing programmes to enhance child care and protection, namely: the Child Support Grant, the Care Dependency Grant, the Foster Care Grant; the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP); and scholar transport for children beyond a 5km radius. The National Bullying Prevention Campaign will also be launched during June 2018.

The Child Protection Week Campaign is a 365 Days’ Campaign, initiated in 1997, to raise awareness and mobilise communities to care and protect children from abuse, neglect, exploitation and from all forms of violence. The 2018 CPW will be marking the 21st anniversary of the commemoration of the Campaign.

**Newly appointed School Governing Body (SGB)  
members empowered**



The 2018 SGB elections took place from 01 to 31 March 2018 as anticipated. However, due to disruptions and grievances experienced in certain areas after several community protests, some schools could not conduct the elections during the stipulated period.

“As the Department, we can confirm that the elections were conducted procedurally and were found to be free and fair. Elections for office bearers had already taken place during April 2018. After the elections, outgoing SGBs conducted hand-over processes to the incoming SGBs. This is the process where the incoming SGBs receive important reports and documents such as financial statements, policies, minutes, programmes and any other important material relating to the functioning of SGBs,” explained Mr James Ndlebe, Director for the Education Management and Governance Development Directorate.

Mr Ndlebe further stated that a school’s SGB is made up of mainly parents, educators, non-teaching staff, learners (at Grade 8 and higher) and community members. “The SGB elections are conducted in the basic education sector after every three years to ensure quality school leadership and governance in South Africa with the aim of improving learner outcomes,” he added.

“The new SGB members who were elected during March 2018 have already assumed their responsibilities at the beginning of the current financial year. Ahead of them lies an immense task of effecting school functionality in ensuring that the Department reaches its goals of providing quality education for all,” remarked Mr Ndlebe.

The Department has begun conducting orientation and induction programmes for newly appointed SGBs to prepare them for the mandate lying ahead and to inform them about their expected roles and responsibilities in their term of office. Mr Ndlebe said the orientation and induction programme will be followed by comprehensive and intensive training on various aspects of SGB functionality.

Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, has approved the *Guidelines for Capacity Building of School Governing Body Members 2018* aimed at strengthening school governance across the country. The Guidelines were developed to inform critical training programmes conducted to empower the newly appointed SGBs in carrying out their roles and responsibilities as school governors. These were distributed to all Circuit Managers, school principals and governing body associations as they all have a role to play in the training of SGBs throughout their term of office.



Department of Basic Education  
Learner Performance Support Documentation  
focused on Curriculum and Assessment  
Support  
2011-2017



The DBE aims to improve the quality of teaching and learning in a sustained manner across the education sector in response to statutory requirements and sector plans. The plans guiding the work of the Department includes the *National Development Plan: Vision 2030* (NDP), the *Medium Term Strategic Framework* (MTSF 2014-2019), and the *Action Plan to 2019: Towards the Realisation of Schooling 2025*.

In response to the policy imperatives of the sector, the Department of Basic Education (DBE) *Learner Performance Support Documentation focused on Curriculum and Assessment Support 2011-2017* has been consolidated by the Research Co-ordination, Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate with input from relevant branches in the Department. The purpose of this document is to highlight the provision of curriculum and assessment supporting material for learners and teachers developed or approved by the DBE, and available online to support progressive learning and teaching.

The material in the document is arranged according to specific themes, namely: the Annual National Assessments (ANA), the National Senior Certificate (NSC), the Curriculum Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS), the Workbooks, Mind the Gap (MTG) study guides and Thutong Education Resource Portal (Thutong) with the inclusion of all the e-learning resources. The documents referred to span from 2011 to 2017.

The document contains the name, purpose and intended effect, grade and subjects which the documents support, as well as a hyper-link to the website where the documents may be accessed. In some instances, policies and guideline booklets are attached to outline basic protocols to guide decisions and achieve improved outcomes.

Click on the below link to access the document:

<https://www.education.gov.za/Portals/0/Documents/Publications/Learner%20performance%20Support%20final.pdf?ver=2018-05-24-082116-510>

**Amendments to the *Public Audit Act*, impact on Education  
Sector Audit Reports and Draft *Guidelines on Auditing  
Procedures for the improvement of audit outcomes***

Recent controversial reputational damages faced by both internal and external auditors have prompted a need to amend the *Public Audit Act* and develop regulations for internal auditors. The Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA) proposed amendments to the *Public Audit Act* in March 2017 to the Standing Committee and the Standing Committee on AGSA approved the amendments on 25 May 2018. The AGSA has noted the level of inadequate consequence management in the Public Sector and recommendations furnished to Departments were not implemented resulting in no impact on audit outcomes. As a result, the amendment of the *Public Audit Act* recommends strengthening the AGSA powers and enforcement of consequence management in the public sector.

The *Draft Public Audit Amendment Bill* aims to address some the following: to authorise the AGSA to provide audit or audit related services to an international association, body, institution or organisation; to provide for the AGSA to refer undesirable audit outcomes, arising from an audit performed under the Act; and to provide for the AGSA to recover losses in certain instances against the responsible persons; and to provide for the establishment, powers and functions of a remuneration committee.

The Directorate: Sector Audit Outcomes is currently in discussion with the Institute of Internal Auditors and the Auditor-General of South Africa to address key challenges in policy development for the auditing profession. Amongst the discussions, are the development of regulations for internal auditing, policy on guidelines for appointment of Audit Committee Members and guidelines on internal audit appointments and professionalism. Ms Moodley Veera, Director: Sector Audit Outcomes, stated that “the amendments to the *Public Audit Act* and regulations for internal auditors will assist in addressing independence concerns, enforcement of recommendations by auditors and ultimately address the state of professionalism and integrity for auditors”.

The Directorate: Sector Audit Outcomes calls for comments/input on the draft guidelines on auditing. The deadline date for comments/inputs is 30 June 2018. All comments to be submitted to Ms Devoshum Moodley Veera on Email: [Moodley.d@dbe.gov.za](mailto:Moodley.d@dbe.gov.za) or Tel: 012 357 3854/3857.

Click on the below link to access the document:

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

## Provincial Round-up

### Western Cape Province



BETTER TOGETHER.

On 21 May 2018 the hostel for junior boys at De La Bat School for the Deaf in Worcester was extensively damaged in a fire. The Cape Winelands Fire Department responded swiftly, but the fire spread rapidly owing to windy conditions and was difficult to bring under control. The hostel was immediately evacuated and no learners were injured. Approximately 17 learners and the “House Mother” who reside in the hostel, sadly lost all their personal belongings, hearing aids and text books. The top floor of the school hostel suffered extensive damage in the fire while the bottom floor suffered water and smoke damage. A team from the Western Cape Education Department (WCED) visited the school to assess the damage and contingency plans were put in place to accommodate the learners. In the meantime, the learners are being accommodated in other hostel accommodation at the school. The cause of the fire is not yet known, but the Cape Winelands Fire Department is investigating the incident.

### Eastern Cape Province



The Eastern Cape Department of Education (ECDoE), in partnership with Unilever and Rama, spearheaded a school nutrition programme and competition, called the Good Breakfast School Programme in 180 schools around Buffalo City on 21 May 2018. One hundred and seventy-eight schools will receive coolant fridges by virtue of their participation. Ekuphumleni Primary School in the Ndevana Township is one of the top schools within the District to win, and received an additional prize worth R15,000 sponsored by Unilever and Rama.

## Upcoming Events

- 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
- 28 May 2018: The DBE will be commemorating Africa Month at Freedom Park in Tshwane, Gauteng Province
- 31 May 2018: Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, will be receiving the Ministerial Task Team (MTT) Report on the possibility of introducing History as a compulsory subject at a History Roundtable scheduled to take place at Freedom Park in Pretoria, Gauteng 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
- 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
- 15 – 16 June 2018: EduWeek Africa will be taking place in Johannesburg, Gauteng Province
- 21 June 2018: A Lunchbox Lekgotla seminar will be taking place at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 25 – 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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