



THUTO

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THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



NEWSLETTER

Minister Motshekga launches History Ministerial Task Team Report



The Ministerial Task Team Report into the introduction of History as a compulsory subject has recommended that History should be phased in incrementally in Grade 10 during 2023 and in Grade 12 during 2025. The launch was held at Freedom Park in Pretoria on 31 May 2018, under the theme: “Re-writing History from an African perspective”.

Led by its chairperson, Professor Sifiso Ndlovu, the Task Team was established in 2015, and was provided with terms of reference to conduct a comparative international study to advise the Department on the possible introduction of History as a compulsory subject in Further Education and Training (FET) bands. This involved a comparative case study on compulsory History in 13 countries. The exercise is similar to an Africa-wide project being conducted by the African Union (AU) and UNESCO on History curricula across the continent and the relevance of the subject.

Various possibilities were presented by the Task Team, including that if History and Life Orientation (LO) are combined, History content should be transferred to LO to reinforce the teaching of citizenship and human rights, amongst others. However, the recommendation from the Task Team was to introduce History as a compulsory subject in the FET phase, by removing Life Orientation from the FET phase and replacing it with compulsory History. It further recommended that the Curriculum and Policy Statement (CAPS), due to its serious limitations, be completely overhauled.

Minister Motshekga said that, “The launch of the Report comes at the tail end of the celebrations of Africa Month. We are proud and excited to be joining our brothers and sisters across the continent and the Diaspora in celebrating our African humanity. Our rich history and heritage ties us together. History should, by design, enable learners to be active citizens – including being able to engage critically with the truths of colonialism, apartheid, and the liberation struggle. Young people should be empowered with values, attitudes and behaviours that contribute to nation-building, social cohesion and national reconciliation. This kind of knowledge will enable the 21st Century generation, to comprehend the nexus between global and national citizenship”.

Minister Motshekga announced that the Report will be presented at the Heads of Education Departments Committee Meeting (HEDCOM), the Council of Education Ministers (CEM), the Basic Education Portfolio Committee in the National Assembly, as well as the Select Committee for Education and Recreation in the National Council of Provinces for further consultation and input. “In addition, public consultations will be held and comments sought from society at large, to guide us towards a History that reflects all of us. The Report should ignite rich, constructive debates and robust discussions in society on the place and importance of History in the school curriculum,” Minister Motshekga concluded.

Click on the below link for the full report:

<https://www.education.gov.za/Portals/0/Documents/Reports/Report%20of%20the%20History%20Ministerial%20Task%20Team%20for%20the%20Department%20of%20Basic%20Education%20Final.pdf?ver=2018-05-31-091407-737>



DBE celebrates centenary icons and calls for a reading revolution during Africa Day commemorations

Wozani maAfrica Amahle
Sons and Daughters of the Soil

Together let's celebrate **Africa Month** from 1 – 31 May 2018



The Year of Nelson Mandela:
**BUILDING A BETTER
AFRICA
AND A BETTER
WORLD**

#AfricaMonth

#AfricaDay

#OurAfricaOurPride



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, joined by various education stakeholders and learners commemorated Africa Day under the theme: “The year of Nelson Mandela: Be the legacy in Building a Better Africa and a Better World”. This joyous occasion took place at Freedom Park in Pretoria on 28 May 2018. The granddaughter of Mrs Albertina Sisulu, Ms Ntsiki Sisulu, and the granddaughter of Mr Nelson Mandela, Ms Ndileka Mandela, also graced the occasion.

Freedom Park’s story teller, Mrs Bongiswa Kotta-Ramoshwana, took the audience on a trip down memory lane, reflecting on the lives of Former President Nelson Mandela and Mrs Albertina Sisulu during their journey towards freedom. She described both activists as phenomenal leaders who lived selfless lives for the liberation of South Africa. “Mandela and Sisulu were ordinary human beings like ourselves. A culture of reading enabled them to become great leaders. I therefore encourage you, as young people, to embrace a reading culture in your academic journey to become responsible and accountable future leaders,” advised Mrs Kotta- Ramoshwana.

Speaking during the Africa Day celebrations, Minister Motshekga said that learners must become avid readers to learn more about critical African leaders who played a crucial role in taking the African continent forward. The Minister reminded learners about the impact of education on their lives, urging them to work hard towards the completion of their National Senior Certificate.

Minister Motshekga called upon parents, teachers and community members to read books on a daily basis to inspire their children to read, both at school and at home: “Community members should establish reading clubs to ignite the reading revolution in their various school communities. As part of the *Read to Lead Campaign*, the DBE has partnered with more than 1,000 celebrities as ambassadors to promote reading in South Africa. The DBE has already activated 6,000 libraries across the country. The private sector and civil society should come on-board to assist the Department in ensuring that every school has reading materials for learners”.

The event concluded with a social cohesion and reading intergenerational dialogue directed by Freedom Park CEO, Ms Jane Mufamadi.



DBE and Unilever forge partnership to promote health and hygiene in primary schools



LET'S GET READY TO WASH OUR HANDS THE RIGHT WAY!

Once you get this right, you too can fight germs.



1 Open the tap and wet your hands.



2 Close the tap and rub soap on your hands.



3 Rub palm to palm.



4 Rub one hand over the other. Now do the same with the other hand.



5 Fingers interlocking.



6 With your nails together, wash the backs of your fingers.



7 Put one hand over the thumb and the other hand over the other thumb.



8 Rinse your hands under running water.

Air dry both hands or use a clean towel. That's it. Now your hands are perfectly clean. Give me a high 5!
Don't be a dope, always use soap!



The Department of Basic Education (DBE), together with Unilever, has entered into a five-year partnership on the National School Hygiene Programme to promote hygiene practices amongst Foundation Phase learners across all nine provinces.

Following the launch by the Minister and the Global CEO of Unilever during June 2017, the Gauteng Department of Education hosted its own provincial launch at Mikateka Primary School in Ivory Park on 29 May 2018. This initiative involves the implementation of a 21-day in-class behaviour change intervention programme to educate Grade 1 learners about the importance of exercising oral hygiene, handwashing and toilet hygiene. Through this partnership, Unilever has invested more than R50m on the provision of toothbrushes, toothpaste, bar soap and Domestos to accommodate all primary schools.

So far, the programme has been implemented in the Gauteng, Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal Provinces. Implementation will incrementally cover the remaining provinces later this year leading up to 2022.

DJ Zinhle has joined forces with Unilever to influence young people to adopt oral hygiene in their daily routine activities. During the launch, Zinhle indicated that the programme will teach learners about the importance of oral hygiene whilst enabling them to lead healthy life styles. "Parents should play a crucial role in promoting oral hygiene at home to ensure that their children brush their teeth twice a day and always wash their hands before meals, and after using the toilet. The only way to change behaviour in children is to educate them about oral hygiene as early as possible for them to remain healthy throughout their life," remarked Zinhle.

Mikateka School Principal, Mr Mandla Sibanyoni, commended the DBE for partnering with Unilever in promoting hygiene in schools, saying that the programme will go a long way in ensuring that learners understand the importance of excising proper oral and toilet hygiene to avoid tooth decay and sicknesses. He pledged to support the programme through the School Governing Body (SGB) engagement meetings to ensure that parents are given a platform to promote hygiene in the Ivory Park community.

The National School Hygiene Programme is implemented within the framework of Care and Support for Teaching and Learning, aimed at strengthening holistic learner support as well as learner health and wellbeing in schools.

“Consolidating our collective efforts” - Care and Support for Teaching and Learning Conference to be hosted



SAVE THE DATE

Inaugural

Care and Support for Teaching and Learning (CSTL) Conference

Consolidating our collective efforts

The DBE, in partnership with UNICEF and MIET AFRICA, will be hosting the Inaugural National Care and Support for Teaching and Learning (CSTL) Conference from 12 to 13 June 2018, at the St George Hotel and Conference Centre in Irene, Pretoria. The Conference is being convened in recognition of the number of initiatives that have, over the years, enabled children to access school, stay in school and achieve their full potential by addressing the wide-range of barriers to teaching and learning.

Delegates ranging from CSTL policy implementers and influencers, as well as educators and learners, will attend the conference to be held under the theme “Consolidating Our Collective Efforts”.

The CSTL Conference will provide impetus to much needed national dialogue on the centrality of learner wellbeing under the rubric of the nationally adopted

Framework for Care and Support within basic education, including its vision and purpose; and to provide an opportunity for all role-players to showcase the range of initiatives currently being implemented in schools under the ten priority areas of CSTL towards strengthening co-ordination.

The integrated package of services represented by the ten priority areas of CSTL have been identified as effective in addressing common barriers that many learners face. These are: (1) a rights-based, socially inclusive and cohesive school; (2) nutrition; (3) health promotion; (4) infrastructure, water and sanitation; (5) social welfare services; (6) psycho-social support; (7) safety and protection; (8) curriculum support; (9) co-curricular support; and (10) material support.

The National Deworming Programme ensures bright achievers



The DBE, in conjunction with the World Health Organisation as well as Johnson and Johnson, is currently implementing a deworming programme aimed at improving the health and well-being of South African learners. The nutritional impairment caused by Soil Transmitted Helminth (STH), or worms has a significant impact on the cognitive development, growth and physical development, as well as educational advancement of children. Deworming can therefore improve the benefits of meals provided to schools through the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP).

The National Deworming Programme is implemented by the NSNP and Integrated School Health Programmes (ISHP). The ISHP is a joint programme of the Departments of Basic Education, Health and Social Development intended to improve children's health; reduce health barriers to learning; assist learners to stay in school; and perform to the best of their abilities. The Health Services Package for the ISHP includes health education (such as how to lead a healthy lifestyle), health screening (such as screening for vision, hearing, oral health and tuberculosis) and onsite services (such as deworming and immunisation).

The National School Deworming Programme has been conducted since 2016, with more than 9.6 million learners being dewormed cumulatively through a donation of Mebendazole tablets by the WHO through Johnson and Johnson. Deworming will be done during the second quarter of 2018, targeting approximately 11 million 5 to 14 year old children (Grades R to 7) as they have the highest prevalence of worms.

The successful implementation of the Programme is dependent on close collaboration between the Departments of Basic Education, Health and Social Development. The collaboration of parents and educators are also essential. Parents are required to provide consent for their children to be dewormed. Parents are thus encouraged to sign consent forms which will be made available at schools.

Deworming learners is a safe, low cost intervention that can assist learners to perform at their peak. Evidence has shown that deworming leads to improved health status, increased productivity, improved educational performance, reduced absenteeism and decreased health care expenditure.

Provincial Round-up

Mpumalanga Province



Schools are currently competing in the 2018 annual ABC Motsepe South African Schools Choir Eisteddfod (SASCE) Competition at provincial level to qualify for the National Championships. The Championships will be taking place at the Rhema Bible Church in Randburg from 26 to 29 June 2018. The Provincial Competitions are currently being hosted in the various provinces up 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.

The Mpumalanga Department of Education convened the Provincial leg of the Competition from 25 to 27 May 2018 at the Emalaheni Civic Centre, Emalaheni Local Municipality. The Eisteddfod is one of the strategic school enrichment programmes that promotes national reconciliation, national identity, social transformation and cohesion among school-going South African youth.

Eastern Cape Province



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, strongly condemned the naked dancing of teenage school girls on stage in the Eastern Cape leg of the ABC Motsepe SASCE Competition that took place this week. There is no need for learners to go on stage completely naked and exposed in the manner we have seen circulating on social media. There have been some commentators who said that this is part of the culture of young women, however the Minister disputes this argument, saying that even taking this into account there is no need to expose teenage girls in such a fashion in a school competition environment.

The Minister sincerely apologised to the sponsors, the ABC Motsepe Foundation, for the embarrassment and negativity caused to its brand. This is even more upsetting considering the increased sexual objectification of women and girls for the entertainment of men. The Minister further apologised to the families of the young girls for the trauma and harm caused.

“It is extremely disappointing to see that our educators have exposed young girls to this type of public displays of nudity. There is absolutely nothing wrong with being proud of your culture and heritage, but there was absolutely no need for these children to perform completely naked. That indignity goes against the values of our cultures,” said Minister Motshekga. The Minister has called for an investigation to take place and for the educators responsible to face disciplinary action.

Gauteng Province



The Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) notified parents of Grade 1 and 8 learners who did not apply online by midnight on 28 May 2018, that they may face enrolment challenges during January 2019. Parents who have applied were reminded to urgently submit the required documentation to the relevant schools. As a special concession, schools will accept these documents up to 14:00 on 05 June 2018. To date, a total of 535,064 applications have been processed since the start of the online applications on 16 April 2018. Approximately 18,000 parents utilised the 37 decentralised admission centres for assistance to apply online. Based on the number of applications registered to date, there are 596 schools where demand exceeds available spaces. According to the GDE, the placement process will start from 18 July 2018 and end on 31 October 2018.

Limpopo Province



“Corporal punishment is a thing of the past and has been outlawed for years now. It cannot be tolerated in 2018 or any other time,” said Limpopo Education MEC, Mr Ishmael Kgetjepe.

This comment followed an incident where an educator from the Modubatse Secondary School in Kgapane township in the Tzaneen District, was served with a letter of intention to suspend him after he beat learners for allegedly making a noise in the classroom. The Limpopo teacher was given 24 hours to submit a representation on why his suspension should be repealed after he was caught on camera administering corporal punishment on 29 May 2018.

Upcoming Events

- 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
- 07 – 08 June 2018: An Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Workshop on International Assessment and the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) will be hosted at the Birchwood Hotel and Conference Centre, 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
- 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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