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THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



NEWSLETTER

Minister Motshekga delivers National Council of Provinces Education Budget Vote Debate in Cape Town



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, MP tabled the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) Education Budget Vote Debate for the 2018/19 Financial Year in the NCOP Chamber, Old Assembly Building, Parliament Precinct in Cape Town on 14 June 2018.

Minister Motshekga strongly condemned violence and vandalism in schools, saying “Surely, we can all agree that the current levels of vandalism and violence in schools cannot be condoned. We must heed President Cyril Ramaphosa’s call on *Thuma Mina*, and collectively make it our business to protect our schools and our school communities – teachers and learners alike, so that we are able to deliver qualitatively so, on our children’s right to basic education, in an unhindered fashion”.

Minister Motshekga also reflected on the centenaries of Former President Nelson Mandela and Mama Albertina Sisulu during her speech, quoting President Ramaphosa: “We honour President Mandela and umama Sisulu *in a year of change, a year of renewal, a year of hope*. Through the centenary celebration of their lives, we are not merely honouring the past, but we are building the future – yes, a *new dawn* for South Africa”.

“Whilst we have made such good progress in our journey towards a democratic South Africa and its basic education system we desire, we are still striving for 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,” Minister Motshekga added. The Minister highlighted a few strategic areas and ongoing programmes currently on the radar, which impact immensely on the education sector.

- The first focus area is the review of progression and promotion policies, especially in the lower Grades;
- The second focus area is Early Childhood Development (ECD);
- The third focus area is the internal efficiency of the system and quality basic education outcomes that can only be achieved through specific and deliberate interventions in the early Grades;
- The fourth focus area is that of strengthening the curriculum content, quality, and relevance in subject offerings, such as History; Mathematics, Science and Technology and Agriculture, especially in rural schools;
- The fifth focus area is the DBE's response to the Fourth Industrial Revolution;
- The sixth focus area is that of improving the coordination and coherence of the sector;
- The seventh critical area is the refocusing of infrastructure planning, coordination and delivery;
- The eighth area is the tightening of human resource management in the basic education system, especially the recruitment, appointment and promotion of education specialists and teachers in our Provincial Education Departments and schools; and
- The ninth focus area is on social transformation and cohesion and the programmes through which we continue to promote national unity and pride, including school sport and school choral and indigenous music events, such as the ABC Motsepe South African Schools Choral Eisteddfod (SASCE).

The NCOP Budget Vote Debate was attended by MECs of Limpopo and the Western Cape Provinces, various NGOs from Nyanga and Khayelitsha, teacher unions, students from the University of Cape Town and learners.

Click on the below link for the full speech:

<https://www.education.gov.za/Newsroom/Speeches/tabid/950/ctl/Details/mid/7006/ItemID/5585/Default.aspx>

EduWeek showcases latest innovations in education



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, delivered the opening address during the 2018 EduWeek event that will be taking place at the Ticket Pro Dome in Johannesburg from 15 to 16 June 2018. In her opening address, Minister Motshekga informed participants that the Department of Basic Education (DBE), is making international linkages to learn and perhaps find the best practices in the arena of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. “We are cognisant of the potential threats posed by these rapid technological developments. Economists Erik Brynjolfsson and Andrew McAfee have pointed out, *the revolution could yield greater inequality, particularly in its potential to disrupt labour markets*”.

“Our plans for the Fourth Industrial Revolution must involve a curriculum mind shift. This involves developing a curriculum in new subjects and programmes that are responsive to the skills for the changing world. Some of these emerging fields include Coding and Robotics; Marine Sciences; Hydro/Aquaponics; Aviation Sciences; Design across the Curriculum; and Arts in Mathematics and Science,” added Minister Motshekga.

“We are currently spearheading the implementation of the Three-Stream Curriculum Model, entrepreneurship and the UNESCO International Bureau of Education Framework for *future skills and competencies*. We are working with an array of partners to unlock positive value from the emergence of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. These partners include UNESCO, African Union, Brookings Institution, LEGO Foundation, and many others,” concluded Minister Motshekga.

EduWeek is the largest and most recognised live education event in Sub-Saharan Africa, bringing together 170 leading companies and over 5,500 attendees from the African education community. Presentations will be made by the DBE's Early Childhood Development (ECD), the Curriculum Innovation and E-Learning, as well as the SA-SAMS and Education Management Information System (EMIS) Directorates. The Department will also exhibit its various products and services in preparation for the new automated digital era.



Inaugural Care and Support for Teaching and Learning Conference - “Consolidating our collective efforts”



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, addressed the Inaugural National Conference on Care and Support for Teaching and Learning (CSTL) at St George Hotel in Pretoria on 12 to 13 June 2018. The Department of Basic Education (DBE), in partnership with UNICEF and MIET Africa, hosted the conference to give education stakeholders an opportunity to share best practice on the co-ordination of Care and Support services in the education sector.

The Conference saw more than 230 education stakeholders from South Africa and abroad engaging on the ten priority areas of CSTL. These areas included a rights-based, socially inclusive and cohesive school; nutrition; health promotion; infrastructure, water and sanitation; social welfare services; psycho-social support; safety and protection; curriculum support; co-curricular support; and material support.

The Conference was also aimed at celebrating the centenary of Nelson Mandela. Professor of Epidemiology and Development from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Professor Donald Bundy, commended Nelson Mandela for having made the noble decision in 1994 when he announced the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) as part of his core priority programmes during his first 100 days in the Presidency. “The NSNP is pivotal because it addresses issues of equity through providing a balanced diet daily to schools, and South Africa has one of the best implementation models,” remarked Professor Bundy.

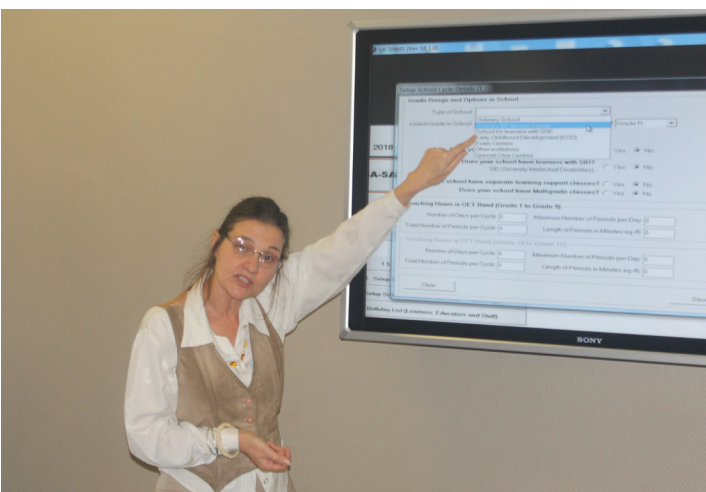
Education Specialist for UNICEF South Africa, Dr Saadhna Panday-Soobrayan, indicated that the education system should not only focus on producing learning outcomes, but to further strategize a focus on adolescents, lift the focus on mental health and find effective ways of dealing with substance abuse. CSTL is not only about the complementary services, but includes core education policy mandates, which include expanding access to basic education and that support learners to stay in school.”

Speaking at the Conference, Minister Motshekga said: “Since the advent of the CSTL Framework, we have made it easier for children to access school, stay in school and achieve good results over the last ten years. Notwithstanding budgetary constraints, our ultimate objective is to place skilled Care and Support practitioners in every school throughout the breadth and depth of our country. South Africa, Swaziland and Zambia took the first bold step as guinea pigs to try out this new framework of coordinating CSTL in the education sector. I am glad to report that more Member States are beginning to align their own policies in line with the new framework”.

Minister Motshekga acknowledged the efforts of those organisations and individuals who have supported the DBE in strengthening the CSTL initiatives in schools. “Your contribution to this framework will assist the DBE in improving learning outcomes in the General Education and Training and Further Education and Training bands,” the Minister concluded.



DBE officials train delegation from the Kingdom of Eswatini on the implementation of SA-SAMS



During a SADC Technical Education Management Information Systems (EMIS) Committee meeting held at the DBE during January 2017, the South African School Management and Administration System (SA-SAMS) was presented as a solution for managing and collecting data received from South African schools. In the spirit of the SADC protocol, the DBE expressed its willingness to share the application with other member countries to ensure that all members from the Region are able to effectively report on statistics and indicators for cross-country comparison, and minimum norms and standards.

The Kingdom of Eswatini subsequently sent a request to the Department to conduct a workshop on SA-SAMS with the intention of implementing the system. This workshop took place from 11 to 14 June 2018 at the DBE in Pretoria, and also included fieldtrips to two schools, Inkululeko Yesizwe Primary School and Fordsburg Primary School in the Gauteng Province. The visit ended at the Gauteng Department of Education to view the system in action. The training workshop included an overview on EMIS processes, the School Reality publications, maintenance and quality of the School Master list, SA-SAMS and its management, collection and quality assurance, data warehouses and Business Intelligence reporting.

Mr Jabulani Shabalala, the Eswatini EMIS Head, was impressed by the user-friendly nature of the SA-SAMS system that uses a single data entry point allowing information to be captured once and used in various functions and reports owing to integrated data fields, saving time and resources. SA-SAMS is designed to be used by the teaching and administration staff at schools, using 15 separate modules for easy access and security control. SA-SAMS keeps schools' data in a central repository for quick access and ease of reporting. SA-SAMS also assists schools with generating reports in prescribed formats - ensuring that the latest relevant school data is validated and available at district, provincial and national levels.

SA-SAMS will be implemented in 800 schools in the Kingdom of Eswatini and provided with consistent support from the DBE. The initiative will be announced during a SADC Meeting of Ministers responsible for Education and Training and Science, Technology and Innovation which will be taking place at the Zimbali Lodge in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal Province.



Dealing with corporal punishment in schools



PROTOCOL TO DEAL WITH INCIDENCES OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IN SCHOOLS

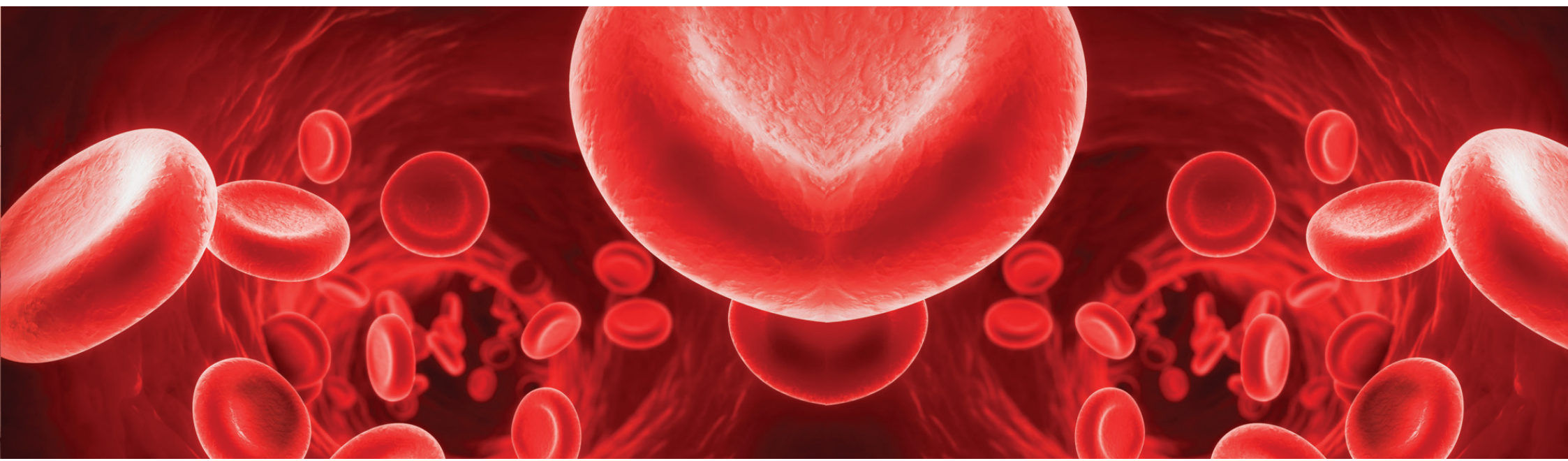
Lately, incidences of the illegal administering of corporal punishment have been reported across various provinces. The Department condemns, in the harshest possible terms, any subverted, reckless and irresponsible attempts by principals, teachers and/or any support staff member to undermine the existing legislative framework prohibiting the use of corporal punishment in schools. Prohibiting corporal punishment is an obligation under international human rights law, and not a voluntary gesture based on good-will. Provinces have also adopted a zero tolerance policy approach when corporal punishment is reported.

A simple and accessible reporting mechanism is in place in all schools. The person to whom the incident has been reported to must obtain as much information as possible from the complainant (learner) about the allegation, through a written statement. All the relevant documentation, together with a report by the Head of the Institution to the Directorate: Dispute Management, marked as “urgent” must be forwarded to the District Office/Head Office. The School Governing Body (SGB), the School Circuit Manager, as well as the learner’s parents must be informed about the incident and that it has been referred for further handling and that they will be contacted in due course by a relevant official.

The District Office will investigate the matter and forward a report with recommendations for the Head of the relevant Department’s approval. Where an educator is found guilty, disciplinary action will be instituted and the matter will be reported to the South African Council for Educators (SACE). Under no circumstances should cases of corporal punishment be dealt with in terms of an informal disciplinary hearing procedure. All cases should be heard in a formal disciplinary hearing.

The Council of Education Ministers (CEM) of 14 to 15 September 2017, approved the *Protocol to Deal with Incidences of Corporal Punishment in Schools*; and the *Protocol for the Management and Reporting of Sexual Abuse and Harassment in Schools*. During 2018/19 these documents will be widely disseminated to strengthen the adoption of the roles and responsibilities assigned to officials and educators. Advocacy, training and/or support will be provided to School Safety Committees, Principals, School Governing Bodies, Teacher Unions, District and provincial officials. The complaints procedures are outlined and the measures to be taken at every level of the system are explicit and include the labour relations processes in response to perpetrators of corporal punishment as well as sexual abuse and harassment.

Combating Tuberculosis in the Basic Education Sector



The DBE participated in the bi-annual 5th South African Tuberculosis (TB) Conference at the Durban International Convention Centre from 12 to 15 June 2018. The DBE presented a powerful poster display and presentation on “The Knowledge, Attitudes and Perceptions of South African Educators on Tuberculosis: Findings from the Health of Educators Study”.

In 2015, the DBE in collaboration with the Human Sciences Research Council, conducted a second generation surveillance study on the health of educators. The study focused on assessing behavioural risk and gathering biomarkers on various issues on the health of educators including HIV, STIs, TB non-communicable diseases and general lifestyle of educators.

The study was conducted in 1,365 schools from across all nine provinces. Using the Education Management Information System (EMIS) Master List for 2012. A sample of 21,495 educators was selected through a multi-stage stratified cluster to participate in the study.

The study concluded that educators had high knowledge levels about TB related risks, preventives measures, as well as the treatment of TB regardless of race and age. Although educators had high knowledge levels about the prevention and treatment of TB, they were less aware about behavioural risk factors for TB such as alcohol use and smoking.

In South Africa, TB is the leading cause of death, accounting for 8.4% of all natural deaths in the country. It is estimated that 438,000 new TB infections occur annually. The *DBE National Policy on HIV, STIs and TB for Learners, Educators, School Support Staff and Officials in all Primary and Secondary Schools in the Basic Education Sector* promulgated in 2017, provides a strategic opportunity to strengthen TB interventions for learners, educators and parents. The DBE Policy is the first education policy on HIV and TB worldwide. The DBE is utilising the data to strengthen employee health and wellness programmes for educators as the improvement of educator TB literacy will contribute greatly to the prevention and control measures in schools and communities.

Provincial Round-up

Eastern Cape Province



On 19 June 2018, four public schools in the Eastern Cape Province will announce themselves as “Four Schools, One Family” at St George’s Hall Queenstown Girls’ High School, Queenstown. These four schools with boarding facilities, Queen’s College, Girls’ High School, Queen’s College Boys’ Primary School and Balmoral Girls’ Primary School, invite all parents and prospective learners to attend the open day. This year the Eastern Cape Department of Education (ECDoE) appointed a new head for each of these schools, and open day 2018 heralds the launch of their formal collaboration. Approximately 2,300 learners are currently educated on the extensive campuses of these renowned schools. On the day, leadership will address the audience and offer guided tours of their campuses. They will also be presented with information on available scholarships to top academic, sport and cultural achievers.

“During the past few years we have supplied technology to these schools to run an application that integrates with the SA-SAMS. It is important for the Department that schools are well-equipped hubs that benefit the community as a whole,” said Education Department Superintendent-General, Mr Themba Kojana. Building on the support and guidance of the ECDoE, the schools are embarking on extensive Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure programmes to position themselves competitively.

Gauteng Province



The Gauteng Youth Expo, which commenced on 12 June 2018 at Nasrec Expo Centre Johannesburg, provided learners with live career demonstrations such as on-site jewellery design and production. The National Youth Development Agency hosted an empowering session with unemployed youth about their various services on offer, as well as entrepreneurship development. The granddaughter of Mama Albertina Sisulu, Ms Ntsiki Sisulu, took part in an engaging Young Women’s Dialogue, which covered topics such as self-management, empowerment and entrepreneurship. The Live Application Festival exposed the youth to applications development and coding and how these can be used for entrepreneurial opportunities. The programme also included the premier of the film, “Shades of Change”, directed by veteran actor, Mr Jerry Mofokeng, as well as a Teenage Pregnancy Summit. With the search for the best up and coming DJ underway, young people competed in the DJ search playoffs during the expo. The winner of the competition will play at the YFM event at Nasrec on 16 June 2018. It was indeed a very exciting opportunity for learners to engage in potential career opportunities.

Upcoming Events

- 15 – 16 June 2018: EduWeek Africa will be taking place in Johannesburg, Gauteng Province
- 17 June 2018: Minister Motshekga will be hosting the Second Chance Matric Support Programme Roadshow at the Bela Bela Community Hall, Bela Bela Municipality, Limpopo Province
- 18 – 22 June 2018: A SADC Meeting of Ministers of Education, Training, Science, Technology and Innovation will be taking place at the Zimbali Lodge in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal Province
- 21 June 2018: Youth Day celebrations to take place at the National Heritage Monument at Fountains Valley, City of Tshwane, 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
- 17 July 2018: Mandela Memorial Lecture to be presented by Mr Barack Obama at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg, Gauteng Province in commemoration of Mandela Month
- 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
- 17 August 2018: The provincial leg of the Spelling Bee Championships will be hosted in the Eastern Cape Province
- 29 August 2018: The provincial leg of the Spelling Bee Championships will be hosted in the Gauteng Province
- 01 September 2018: The provincial leg of the Spelling Bee Championships will be hosted in the Western Cape Province
- 05 September 2018: The provincial leg of the Spelling Bee Championships will be hosted in the Free State Province
- 07 September 2018: The provincial leg of the Spelling Bee Championships will be hosted in the Mpumalanga Province
- 07 September 2018: The provincial leg of the Spelling Bee Championships will be hosted in the Northern Cape Province
- 13 September 2018: The provincial leg of the Spelling Bee Championships will be hosted in the KwaZulu-Natal Province
- 13 September 2018: The provincial leg of the Spelling Bee Championships will be hosted in the North West Province
- 13 – 14 September 2018: The provincial leg of the Spelling Bee Championships will be hosted in the Limpopo 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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