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THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



## NEWSLETTER

### Southern African Development Community (SADC) Ministers analyse SA-SAMS within the school context



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, led a delegation of Education and Science Ministers from SADC on a visit to Duduzani Primary School in Lindelani township, north of Durban today, 22 June 2018.

The objective of the visit was to allow the delegation to interact with the School Management Team on SA-SAMS within the basic education sector. The delegation included Angola, Eswatini, Lesotho, Botswana, Namibia, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Zambia.

Currently, the KwaZulu-Natal Province has approximately 6,400 schools using SA-SAMS as a reliable data capturing mechanism.

Addressing the delegation, Minister Motshekga said that SA-SAMS is an initiative aimed at improving the effective management of schools in the country. Through SA-SAMS the data capturing of learners, educators, parents and subjects would be strengthened. "If adopted in the SADC region, Member States will be able to share ideas to improve their school data capturing systems. The Department of Basic Education (DBE) will be offering this initiative to SADC at no cost as it is a government initiative. Once considered in the SADC region, Member States could assist in improving its operation for the better," said Minister Motshekga.

Minister Motshekga thanked the delegation for having shown an interest in this South African initiative, adding that, "SA-SAMS continues to play a crucial role in informing the Department's resource planning and decision making processes.



### SADC Member States join forces to address Education and Training, Science, Technology and Innovation in the region



South Africa is the current chair of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The Departments of Basic Education (DBE), Higher Education and Training (DHET) and Science and Technology (DST) therefore hosted the Joint Meeting of Ministers responsible for Education and Training, Science, Technology and Innovation (JMM). The meeting was aimed at strengthening co-operation among SADC Member States. The Senior Officials Meeting took place at Fairmont Zimbali Resort, in Durban from 18 to 20 June 2018, and was followed by the Ministers Meeting on 21 to 22 June 2018.

The five day meeting was attended by ministers and senior officials from across 11 SADC Member States including Namibia, South Africa, Mozambique, Botswana, Eswatini, Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Seychelles and Mauritius, Tanzania, Malawi, Democratic Republic of Congo and Madagascar.

In this sector, there are various committees in which the DBE participates. These include the committee for Care and Support for Teaching and Learning (CSTL); and the Task Team for the Development of the Regional Framework for Teacher Standards and Competences, amongst others. All committees reported progress made during South Africa's chairship.

During the presentation of the progress report of the CSTL, the Chief Director for Care and Support at the DBE, Dr Faith Kumalo, indicated that the Programme is a SADC initiative intended to realise the educational rights of all children, through schools becoming inclusive centres of learning, care and support. CSTL seeks to facilitate context-specific responses to the various barriers to learning. Dr Kumalo also shared the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) implemented by the DBE. In her remarks she invited Ministers to note that the school feeding programme has benefits beyond education, as it contributes to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Mr Enoch Rabotapi, Chief Director for Curriculum and Professional Development, presented a report from the Task Team for the Development of the Regional Framework for Teacher Standards and Competences. Mr Rabotapi said that teachers are central to quality education: "The SADC framework will give value and legitimacy to national frameworks and processes, whilst providing a point of reference for quality education in the SADC region".

The South African Council for Educators (SACE) made a presentation on the *Role of Professional Registration in the Benchmarking of Teacher Professional Status in the SADC*. According to the Chief Executive for SACE, Ms Ella Mokgalane, teacher migration in the region is inevitable thus there is a need to ensure teacher mobility happens seamlessly. She recommended that there be an establishment of teacher regulatory authorities in the SADC countries with the ultimate goal of professional registration being recognised, and transferable across the SADC member countries.

The meeting also commended the DBE for offering the South African School Administration (SA-SAMS) software package to other SADC member states. Ms Carinne Van der Westhuizen reported that the software is meant to assist member states in their day to day management of school administration. This will enable user countries to have accurate and up to date information on education; thereby improving policy development, planning, and monitoring and evaluation.

All the input and recommendations from the Senior Officials Meeting were presented to the Ministers for consideration.



**Youth moulding their lives on the legacy of fallen stalwarts during Youth Month**



As part of Youth Month 2018, the DBE organised an educational dialogue in partnership with the National Heritage Monument and the 1976 Foundation. The event took place at the National Monument's "Long March to Freedom" at Fountains Valley, Pretoria on 21 June 2018. The participating schools were drawn from the Free State, North West, Mpumalanga, Limpopo and Gauteng Provinces. The theme for the commemoration of Youth Day/Month is "Live the Legacy: Towards a socio-economically empowered youth".

The learners were taken through the National Heritage Monument on an educational tour in preparation for an essay on: *What can the youth do to build on the legacy of our fallen heroes and heroines*, and focusing on a stalwart of their choice.

The DBE commemorates the above mentioned historical events under the theme "Be the Legacy", however the theme for the commemoration of Youth day is "Live the legacy: Towards a socio-economically empowered youth". Youth day is commemoration annually to reflect on the role of the 1976 youth in the liberation struggle.

Programme Director, Mr Reitumetse Johnson from the Social Cohesion and Equity in Education Directorate at the DBE said, "During Youth Month, our learners are at the centre of discussions, they are encouraged to share what they have learned today in the classroom and to, as future leaders, help to make this country work."

Mr Dan Montsitsi from the 1976 Foundation represented a slice of History in action, with the rendering of his experiences as a student leader during the 1976 Uprising in Soweto.

Ms Aya Gidi, Co-ordinator of the National Heritage Monument's "Long March to Freedom" provided background on the awe-inspiring display of 96 statues of struggle heroes, "which is about the celebration of a superior value system embodied in the lives and exemplary conduct of the heroes and heroines of the liberation struggle. The initiative was started in 2010 and not yet complete. It will accommodate about 500 statues when fully completed".

One of the four statues on the forefront is that of former president Nelson Mandela, with a closed-fisted hand in the air. On the far right is Albertina and Walter Sisulu, holding hands. In the middle is Oliver Tambo, the longest serving president of the ANC. This year's Government's Programme of Action focuses on the commemoration of the Centenary of the late President Nelson Mandela and Mama Albertina Sisulu. For this reason the Director-General invited all schools across provinces to celebrate the all significant historical national days and events as part of promoting and enhancing the teaching of History in schools, and social cohesion and nation building.

**Second Chance Matric Programme offers a second chance at success**

# SECOND CHANCE

## MATRIC SUPPORT PROGRAMME

Provides Support for: NSC Supplementary Exams | NSC Progressed Learners  
Amended Senior Certificate | Part-Time NSC Candidates

Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, visited the Waterberg District, Bela-Bela in the Limpopo Province on 17 June 2018 as part of the Youth Month activities to recruit young people who have not completed their National Senior Certificate (NSC) to enrol for the Second Chance Matric Support Programme.

Addressing the community of Bela-Bela, Minister Motshekga said, "There might have been challenges in life that have prevented you from writing matric; use this second chance as an opportunity to get back on track. The second most important document a young person can own after a birth certificate, is a qualification that opens a world of career opportunities for you. Having a skilled population helps eliminate unemployment, and consequently poverty which is a national problem, and by eliminating poverty, the issues such as equity and regress are addressed in terms of the socio-economic status of the country."

The Programme is targeted at learners and individuals who failed to meet the requirements of the NSC, the Senior Certificate (SC), or are seeking to upgrade their subjects and are enrolled as part-time candidates. Through the Programme, the Province has been able to increase the number of learners, who have not only completed the NSC, but also acquired their Bachelor's passes.

Amongst the members that attended were a group of former learners from Maope Secondary School, who established the *100 Kids to Varsity Programme*, which offers after-school Mathematics and Science classes so as to help improve learner performance. One of the learners from the *100 Kids to Varsity Programme* addressed community members saying, "I joined the Programme because I wanted to succeed, and you will never succeed if you don't take yourself seriously and believe that you deserve success".

There are currently a total of 12 DBE funded centres within the Province, as well as a total number of 65 provincially funded centres, with a growing participation rate as the DBE, together with the Limpopo Province, is working on establishing more centres to accommodate the numbers of candidates registering for the Programme. The participation in the Second Chance Matric Programme has been growing steadily and both learners and teachers have been working effortlessly to strengthen the Programme and to establish additional centres across all provinces.



# Call for comments on the draft Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement, Grades R-5 for Learners with Severe Intellectual Disability

Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, in terms of section 3(4)(l) of the *National Education Policy Act, 1996 (Act No. 27 of 1996)*, and after consultation with the Council of Education Ministers, invites all stakeholder bodies and members of the public to comment on the *draft Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS) Grades R-5 for learners with Severe Intellectual Disability (SID)*.

The South African *Constitution* enshrines the right of every child to access quality basic education without any form of discrimination. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ratified by the Parliament of South Africa during 2007, requires Government to ensure that children with disabilities are able to access an inclusive, quality compulsory primary and secondary education, on an equal basis with others in the communities in which they live, and that persons with disabilities are not excluded from general education.

There are learners participating in the General Education and Training Band who have an aptitude and interest in applied knowledge and vocational skills for whom the National Curriculum Statement, Grades R to 12 (NCS) needs to be differentiated to make it fully accessible. This includes learners with moderate to severe intellectual disability and learning difficulties. Knowledge and skills should be presented at a more functional level and at reduced depth and breadth, whilst a number of occupational subjects are also made available. They should be given an opportunity to receive an endorsed statement of achievement that is related to learning within their interest and aptitude.

It would greatly assist the Department if all submissions could be submitted in writing and have the name, email address, telephone number and/or fax number of the person or organisation submitting the comments. Please note that all submissions should be prepared under the headings listed in the schedule.

Please send or deliver your submission to: the Director for Inclusive Education, Department of Basic Education, 222 Struben Street, Pretoria 0002, addressed to: Dr MT Simelane for the attention of: Mrs M Chaane, or E- mail: [chaane.m@dbe.gov.za](mailto:chaane.m@dbe.gov.za) or Fax: 012 323 7749. All comments must reach the DBE no later than 16 July 2018.

Click on the below link to view the *draft Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS) Grades R-5 for learners with Severe Intellectual Disability (SID)*:

[https://www.education.gov.za/Resources/Legislation/CallforComments/CallforcommentsonthedraftcurriculumandassessmentpolicystatementGradeR-5forlearnerswithSevereIntellectualDisability\(SID\).aspx](https://www.education.gov.za/Resources/Legislation/CallforComments/CallforcommentsonthedraftcurriculumandassessmentpolicystatementGradeR-5forlearnerswithSevereIntellectualDisability(SID).aspx)

## Call for comments on the Proposed 2020 School Calendar for Public Schools

January 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2020						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29

March 2020						
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2020						
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May 2020						
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, acting in terms of section 3(4)(k) of the *National Education Policy Act, 1996 (Act No. 27 of 1996)*, and after consultation with the Council of Education Ministers, invites stakeholder bodies and members of the public to comment on the Proposed 2020 School Calendar.

It would greatly assist the Department if all submissions could be submitted in writing and have the name, email address, telephone number and/or fax number of the person or organisation submitting the comments. Please note that all submissions should be prepared under the headings listed in the schedule.

Please send or deliver your submission to: The Director-General: Department of Basic Education, 222 Struben Street, Pretoria 0002, for the attention of: Mr Sihle Mlambo, or E-mail: [mlambo.s@dbe.gov.za](mailto:mlambo.s@dbe.gov.za), and copy: [manaka.l@dbe.gov.za](mailto:manaka.l@dbe.gov.za), or Fax: 012 328 3532. All comments must reach the DBE no later than 16 July 2018.

Click on the below link to view the Proposed 2020 School Calendar for Public Schools:

<https://www.education.gov.za/Resources/Legislation/CallforComments/CallforcommentsProposed2020schoolcalendarforpublicschools.aspx>

July 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2020						
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						1
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Duration	No. of weeks	No. of days	No. of public holidays	Actual no. of school days
(13) 15 January -20 March	10	48 (50)	00	48 (50)
31 March – 12 June	11	54	04	50
07 July – 18 September	11	54	01	53
29 September – 02 (04) December	10	47 (49)	00	47 (49)
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>203 (207)</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>198 (202)</b>

## Teacher Appreciation and Support Programme invites presentations inspired by Madiba's values



The Teacher Appreciation and Support Programme (TASP) recognises the good work done by committed teachers during often challenging circumstances across the country. World Teachers' Day and the National Teaching Awards (NTAs) are crucial milestones in the TASP programme as teachers are seen as the heartbeat of the nation.

As 2018 marks the celebration of the centenary of the birth of Former President Nelson Mandela, Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) are invited, as part of TASP to forward presentations which will be embedded in Mandela's ideas. These presentations will follow a set of guidelines adapted from the criteria of the Varkey Foundation. The theme for this year's celebration is: "Teachers and teaching: the commemoration of the Nelson Mandela Centenary during the Fourth Industrial Revolution".

These guidelines speak to classroom practice, teacher achievements in and outside the classroom, helping learners to becoming global citizens, and to be role models. These are attributes that Mandela talked to when he talked about citizens "which all humanity will be proud of".

All districts and provinces have received the guidelines and are requested to encourage teachers to prepare and submit their presentations on or before 31 July 2018. The entrant must be a serving teacher or practitioner in a public school or Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centre registered with the DBE or the Department of Social Development. The top nine presentations will be presented at a World Teachers' Day Seminar on 05 October 2018.

Teachers should email their presentations to Mrs Masivuye Sangoni and copy Mrs Patricia Mulaudzi at: [sangoni.m@dbe.gov.za](mailto:sangoni.m@dbe.gov.za) and [mulaudzi.p@dbe.gov.za](mailto:mulaudzi.p@dbe.gov.za).



## Provincial Round-up

### Western Cape



On the morning of 18 June 2018, three teachers from ACJ Phakade Primary School in Nomzamo in the Western Cape Province were hijacked at gunpoint as they arrived at school. Five armed men entered the school premises via the motor vehicle entrance, and held the three teachers at gunpoint, making off with three vehicles. Fortunately, no one was physically hurt during the incident, however, the educators involved, as well as those who witnessed the incident, are deeply traumatised and are receiving counselling. The Western Cape Education Department (WCED) Safe Schools Directorate has deployed security to the school. Western Cape MEC for Education, Ms Debbie Schäfer, condemned the attack on teachers in the strongest possible terms, saying that this was the 5th armed robbery attack on Western Cape schools in the past month. MEC Schäfer called on SAPS to increase their visibility around schools at the start and end of the school day when schools are at their most vulnerable.

### KwaZulu-Natal



KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Education, Mr Mthandeni Dlungwana, in his capacity as Ilembe District Champion, led an Interfaith Peace March at the Ndwedwe Sports Stadium in the Ilembe District on 19 June 2018. The MEC was accompanied by the Mayor from the Ilembe District Municipality, the House of Traditional Leaders, and Leaders of various congregations. The aim of the march was for all parties to work together against crime and social ills prevalent in our schools and society.



Government will consider introducing computer coding in South Africa's education system, Communications Deputy Minister, Ms Pinky Kekana, said on 20 June 2018. Addressing the IBM annual Think Conference at Kyalami Grand Prix Circuit in Johannesburg, Kekana said Government acknowledges that for the country to fully reap the benefits of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, South Africa should invest in infrastructure and skills. The Deputy Minister's comments were also emphasised by IBM Senior Vice President for global industries, platforms and blockchain technology, Bridget van Kralingen. "Everybody needs to be a coder," said Van Kralingen, adding that one of the company's eight research labs are located in South Africa. The IBM Think Conference is regarded as a flagship conference for innovators in the technology sector, and focuses on topics like Artificial Intelligence (AI), cloud technology, digital economy and blockchain technology. The World Economic Forum estimates that 33% of jobs in 2020 do not even exist yet. In the meantime, Government will continue to encourage entrepreneurship and ensure that the education system provides appropriate skills for the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

## Upcoming Events

- 24 June 2018: Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, will be conducting his Winter School monitoring visits in the North West Province
- 25 June 2018: Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, will be conducting his Winter School monitoring visits in the Northern Cape Province
- 25 June 2018: Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, will be conducting his Winter School monitoring visits in the Free State 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
- 26 June 2018: Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, will be conducting his Winter School monitoring visits in the Limpopo Province
- 02 July 2018: Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, will be conducting his Winter School monitoring visits in the Gauteng Province
- 03 July 2018: Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, will be conducting his Winter School monitoring visits in the KwaZulu-Natal 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
- 06 July 2018: Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, will be conducting his Winter School monitoring visits in the Mpumalanga Province
- 09 July 2018: Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, will be conducting his Winter School monitoring visits in the Eastern Cape Province
- 10 July 2018: Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, will be conducting his Winter School monitoring visits in the Western Cape 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
- 17 July 2018: A workshop with providers of digital learning courses is scheduled to take place on the *Professional Development Framework for Digital Learning* in the Gauteng Province
- 19 July 2018: A Lunchbox Lekgotla seminar will be taking place at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 26 July 2018: A workshop with Higher Education Institutions is scheduled to take place on the *Professional Development Framework for Digital Learning* in the 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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