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THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



NEWSLETTER

Basic Education Minister congratulates winners of the 2018 ABC Motsepe SASCE championship



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, officiated the prize giving ceremony during the 2018 ABC Motsepe South African School Choral Eisteddfod (SASCE) held at Rhema Church in Randburg from 26 to 29 June 2018. Through this flagship programme, the DBE and its partners joined forces to promote unity in diversity, national reconciliation, social cohesion and national identity in schools.

The 2018 ABC Motsepe SASCE saw more than 160 winners of the Provincial ABC Motsepe SASCE ascending the national stage to honour the centenary of Tata Nelson Mandela and Mama Albertina Sisulu through song. The two world icons deserve to be saluted for their sterling work in the liberation of South Africa.

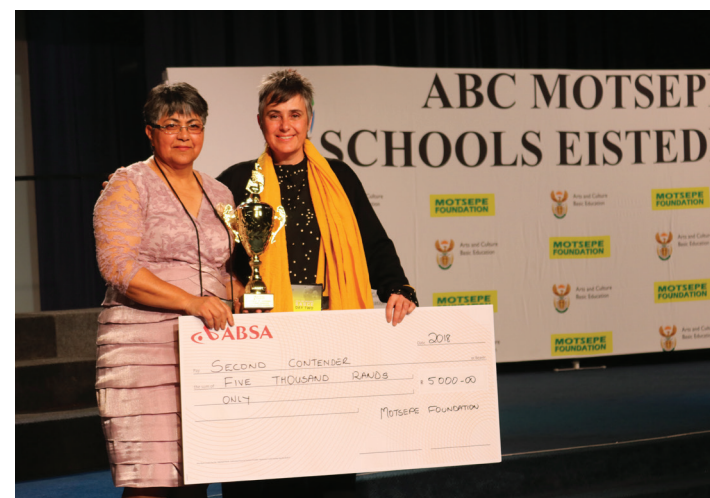
Accolades kept pouring in from the audience acknowledging the melodious sounds of the primary and secondary schools' best performers singing songs such as Vela Mandela, Vela Sikubone, Natso-Ke Mandela and Rivonia. The performers took to the stage to showcase their musical talents in various musical genres including Sextet, Folklore, mix choirs and Soloists.

Annually, various education stakeholders including Provincial Education Departments (PEDs), School Governing Body (SGB) members, teachers and parents come from the various provinces to support and enjoy musical renditions offered as part of the national championship.

The adjudication was done by professional musicologists from Stellenbosch University, the University of Fort-Hare, the North West University, the Ezibeleni Music Special School and SA FM. KwaZulu-Natal retired Music Inspector, Dr Edward Mngadi, said: "This year, the standard of performances is high because the conductors demonstrate a sense of profound professionalism in all categories. The competition is not only about singing, but a nation building programme since all participants are expected to render a preamble of the Republic of South Africa - ensuring that every child acknowledges and recognises the value of the *Constitution*".

Minister Motshekga expressed her appreciation to the school principals, particularly conductors who ensured that learners endure to reach the final stage of the competition. "Music, like all other forms of cultural expression, is an important *weapon of education*. So much is invested in this exercise because it advances the holistic development of the young, preparing them for constructive lives fulfilling to themselves, their country and their people," highlighted the Minister.

Minister Motshekga requested PEDs to increase mass participation in the competition to ensure that more learners benefit from curriculum enrichment and support programmes aimed at strengthening holistic learner development at school level. The competition will end today, 29 June 2018, at 18:00, with musical performances by high school learners. All the results from day one to day four are available on the DBE website.



Minister Motshekga addresses District Directors on the mid-year review of learner performance and the consolidation of interventions



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, will be hosting the second quarterly meeting for 2018 with District Directors from 05 to 06 July 2018, at the Department of Basic Education (DBE) in Pretoria, to review the strides made as part of the mid-year review process, and to ensure that challenges that have not been dealt with are unpacked and addressed. The two-day District Directors meeting will be preceded by a Circuit Management Roundtable under the theme: “Circuit Managers at the centre of education transformation”, which is scheduled for 04 July 2018.

The first quarterly meeting for 2018 with District Directors took place during 22 to 23 February 2018, to plan for the new academic year. The meeting focussed on critical aspects that need to be accelerated to confront challenges and inefficiencies within the education sector head on to assist schools to obtain quality passes. During this meeting Minister Motshekga called upon District Directors to refocus the education sector towards the effective implementation of technology in classroom context to prepare learners for the Fourth Industrial Revolution and to create “classrooms of the 21st Century”. “The progress we are seeing in the Gauteng and the Western Cape Provinces, vis-à-vis the modernisation of the classroom, with the Eastern Cape and Free State Provinces following suit, is encouraging,” added the Minister.

Earlier this year, Minister Motshekga, honoured hard working Districts and schools during the 5th annual National Education Excellence Awards that took place at the Maslow Time Square in Menlyn, Pretoria, Gauteng Province on 06 April 2018. The Awards were introduced during 2014 to recognise and celebrate the amazing work done by Districts and schools. The South African education system continues to deliver quality education to multitudes of learners through 24,000 schools and 70 Districts in all nine provinces.



Draft *National Policy on the Prevention and Management of Learner Pregnancy in Schools* gazetted for public comment



The Department of Basic Education (DBE) recognises the negative impact of teenage pregnancy on learning and teaching. The high rate of unplanned early pregnancy in girl learners has significant health, education, social, systemic and fiscal sequelae, not only for the basic education sector but for national development in general. Learner pregnancy impacts on the lives of many young people often limiting their personal growth, the pursuit of rewarding careers, and their ambitions with an incalculable impact on the country's socio-economic systems. In the absence of a clear policy position, schools use different measures to deal with pregnant learners including temporary suspension from school, which infringes on the constitutional right of learners to education.

The DBE has therefore developed the Draft *National Policy on the Prevention and Management of Learner Pregnancy in Schools*, which seeks to prevent learner pregnancy, as well as guide the sector in managing pregnant learners to ensure that they complete schooling. Education has been found to be a protective factor against risky behaviour and future, quick, repeat pregnancies. Earlier this year, the Department issued a Government Gazette inviting comments from stakeholder bodies and members of the public on the draft Policy. Due to the high level of public interest, the Department has further extended the deadline for written submissions to 31 July 2018.

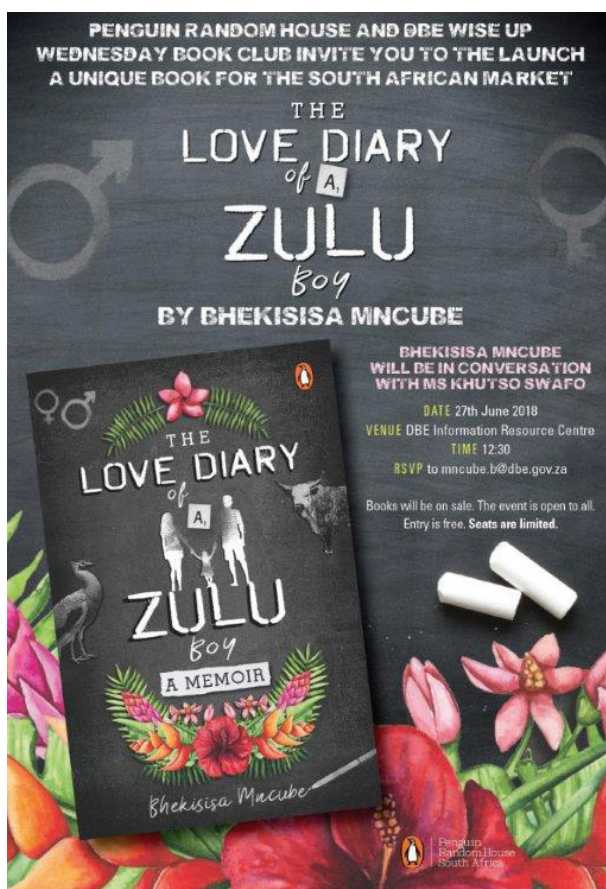
The provision of compulsory comprehensive sexuality education as well as access to health services, including adolescent-friendly sexual and reproductive health services, are key programmes to prevent learner pregnancy. The draft Policy says that there should be no exclusion of pregnant learners who must be allowed to remain in school during their pregnancies, and assisted to return as soon after giving birth as is appropriate for the benefit of both the learner and her child.

Interested parties are invited to comment on the draft policy in writing via email to: pregnancypolicy@dbe.gov.za or fax to 012 328 8401

Click on the below link to view the draft policy:

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

Bhekisisa Mncube – a Zulu Boy with a compelling story



The Love Diary of a Zulu Boy, written by Mr Bhekisisa Mncube, Minister Mothsekga's Speech Writer, was launched at the DBE's Information Resource Centre (IRC) on 27 July 2018. *The Love Diary of a Zulu Boy* is written with an honesty rarely encountered in autobiographical writing to deliberate both the absence and manifestation of love, in all its forms.

Inspired by the real-life drama of a romance between a Zulu boy and an Englishwoman, the book consists of various interrelated short stories on interracial relationships in modern-day South Africa, with an interesting glimpse on culture, tradition and family.

"The book is a reconciliation of the past and the present, as well as a testimony of a survivor's healing, owing to matured insights and personal growth after a disparaging past including abuse, toxic masculinity and gender-based violence. "I wrote this book for my daughter," Mncube said, "Being a conversationalist in the education sector, it is necessary to take a stand with other South African men to publically acknowledge the rights of women, and to respect them as individuals".

"The book goes beyond being a narrative of forbidden love. It's a potent alchemy, a swirling together of matters that are the hallmark of serious literature: good and evil, sex, love, friendship, morality, happiness and suffering, heroes and villains... and, of course, the old South African chestnuts – race and identity." – Fred Khumalo

About the author

Bhekisisa Mncube has been described as a "Zulu cultural delinquent". He has a Bachelor of Technology (BTech) degree in Journalism from the Durban University of Technology and is the recipient of the coveted Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung International Scholarship (Germany). His writing has appeared in various publications, including *The Witness*, *Sunday Times (Lifestyle)*, *Mercury*, *Sunday Tribune*, *Independent on Saturday*, *Daily News*, *Sunday World*, *Politicsweb*, *Bizcommunity.com* and *The New Age*.



Join the men's march and to say "no" to violence against women and children



100 MEN MARCH

Stop Violence Against Women and Children

As part of the centenary celebrations of former President Nelson Mandela and struggle stalwart, Mama Albertina Sisulu, Government and various social partners will, on 10 July 2018, host a national #100MenMarch to stop violence against women and children. Both these stalwarts committed their lives to taking a stand for human rights, particularly women and children. The march seeks to raise awareness on the scourge of violence against women and children. The proceedings will commence at Church Square at 10:00 and end on the southern lawns of the Union Buildings at 13:00.

Provincial Round-up

Northern Cape



The Northern Cape Department of Education will be hosting Winter Residential Camps and Winter Schools for identified Grade 12 learners in all districts in the province from 25 June to 01 July 2018. A total of 15 Residential Camps have been identified where learners have been accommodated since 24 June 2018. These Winter Camps form part of the continuous interventions put in place to assist the Class of 2018 with maximum support ahead of the final examinations. Educators who teach various subjects during the Winter Schools are recruited through a rigorous scrutinising process. All the educators are Grade 12 teachers in their specific subjects and have been involved in various provincial examination processes, either as markers or as examiners.

A wide variety of subjects are offered to the Grade 12 learners, including English First Additional Language, Mathematics, Mathematical Literacy, Agricultural Science, Physical Science, Technical Mathematics, Technical Physics and Accounting. The purpose of these sessions is to render additional support to Grade 12 learners in the form of revision and consolidation of subject content. A total of 3,300 learners will be benefitting from the Winter School Camps in preparation for their final examinations. At the end of the week, a special session will be held in which the students will receive information on career guidance and post-matric studies.

The Northern Cape Department of Education, in partnership with the 1 Million School Shoes Campaign, also handed over school shoes at the Vaal Oranje Primary School in Douglas on 23 June 2018. The donation will benefit deserving learners from 9 schools in the Pixley Ka Seme District. It is impossible for many parents to provide a school uniform and school shoes to their children due to their household circumstances. During winter these children are challenged to face the cold without proper shoes and clothing, thus affecting their access to education. The donation of school shoes is a critical enabler and contributor to quality education. The 1 Million School Shoes Campaign consists of a group of youth who are dependent on sponsorships to assist deserving learners. It was their dream, inspired by Nelson Mandela to bring change to the lives of learners in South Africa. The Northern Cape was the 8th province in the country that benefitted during 2018.



The Eastern Cape Education Department, together with the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, this week, commemorated Youth Month in the Nelson Mandela District with agriculture and farming as a theme. Mr Selwyn Bruiners, a Deputy Director at the Special Programs Unit (SPU) from the Department said that the two departments symbolically planted a seed that is expected to grow to its full potential within the next five years. Learners were encouraged to ask questions and to conduct research to help them to choose subjects that will guide their preferred career paths. Learners were presented with an opportunity to explore the vast and interesting field of agriculture.

The Nelson Mandela University presented different types of careers within the agriculture sector. As Agriculture contributes immensely to the economy of the country, various opportunities and careers were presented, including cattle breeding and soil engineering. Learners were advised to select pure Mathematics that opens more doors to learning and teaching as most agricultural careers and courses include chemistry and biology. Agricultural teachers attending the event mentioned that learners were not exposed to commercial farming, adding that the Department should lobby for the curriculum to be structured in such a way that it makes it possible for learners to also engage in the practical side of Agriculture.

Upcoming Events

- 30 June – 01 July 2018: Minister Motshekga will be hosting a Second Chance Matric Programme community outreach programme in Queenstown and Mdantsane, East London in the Eastern Cape Province
- 02 July 2018: Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, will be conducting his Winter School monitoring visits in the Free State Province
- 03 July 2018: Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, will be conducting his Winter School monitoring visits in the Mpumalanga Province
- 04 July 2018: A Circuit Management Roundtable will be hosted under the theme: “Circuit Managers at the centre of education transformation” at the Department in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 05 July 2018: Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, will be conducting his Winter School monitoring visits in the Limpopo 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
- 07 July 2018: Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, will be conducting his Winter School monitoring visits in the KwaZulu-Natal 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
- 31 August 2018: The Teacher Appreciation and Support Programme (TASP) submission date for teachers to prepare and submit their presentations inspired by Madiba’s values
- 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
- 05 October 2018: A World Teachers’ Day Seminar will be hosted under the theme, “Teachers and teaching: the commemoration of the Nelson Mandela Centenary during the Fourth Industrial Revolution”
- 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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