



# THUTO

PRODUCED BY:  
THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



## NEWSLETTER

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



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, attended the second quarterly meeting for 2018 with District Directors. The meeting took place 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 theme for the meeting was: “Measuring the impact of the implementation of plans”.

Basic Education Deputy Minister, Mr Enver Surty, addressed District Directors on the first day of the meeting saying that, “Our data and research results indicate that our journey has been steady but sure. As we conclude our final year of administration we can say, with conviction, that the DBE had brought Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and connectivity within reach of our teachers and learners. Workbooks and textbooks are also digitised for easy access. We are empowered to effectively and accurately analyse and interpret data. The South African School Management and Administration System (SA-SAMS) provides a solution for managing and collecting data received from South African schools and the Learner Unit Record Information Tracking System (LURITS) provides information regarding learners. We are ready to tackle the Fourth Industrial Revolution head-on”.

District Directors, guided by Deputy Director-General for Planning and Delivery Oversight, Mrs Palesa Tyobeka, presented their various reports. “As a forum, we continue to learn valuable lessons from various provinces. Analysis of the 2018 term one results indicate that we are on track for 2018. Let us remember that, it is not optional, but obligatory for us to identify underperforming schools and to assist them with intervention measures. District Directors work under challenging circumstances, but we continue to make gains. What binds us together is the interest of the child. It is a fact that data-driven-districts are key to improving learning outcomes and capacity building initiatives must be put in place to empower our districts officials to perform their functions,” said Mrs Tyobeka.

Why do certain schools work and others struggle to produce quality learning outcomes? Dr Sibusiso Sithole from the National Education Evaluation and Development Unit (NEEDU) reported that the *Schools that Work II – Lessons from the Ground* Report, as well as the NEEDU Policy Briefs, a summary of the Report, were shared with provinces, districts and schools during roadshows that took place across provinces. Ms Cheryl Weston, Director for Curriculum Implementation and Quality Improvement (FET), presented the recommendations of the History Ministerial Task Team Report. Other items on the agenda included Care and Support Services and School Safety, Rural Education and School Self-Evaluation, and School Improvement Plans as management tools for district officials. These two presentations provided the basis for deliberations during the commissions that produced recommendations for implementation.

A group comprising of the 5<sup>th</sup> annual National Education Excellence Awards first prize recipients, including school principals and District Directors, led by DBE’s Mr Phillip Tshabalala, Director for District-Level Planning and Implementation Support, attended an international conference on school leadership in Birmingham (UK) from 12 to 16 June 2018. International best practice and lessons from the conference were shared at the meeting.

The next quarterly meeting scheduled for 20 to 21 September 2018, will be replaced by a workshop to launch the World Bank Report: *Learning to Realise Education’s Promise*, South African country report. District Directors will be in attendance during the workshop. The last meeting will be held during December 2018 in preparation for the 2019 academic year.





## Placing Circuit Managers at the centre of education transformation



The HEDCOM Subcommittee on Districts hosted a Roundtable to reflect on how to strengthen and position Circuit Managers as the key to transforming educational quality in all schools. The Roundtable was attended by all members of the sub-committee, joined by senior provincial managers responsible for district and circuit co-ordination, as well as Human Relations. A key concern for the HEDCOM Subcommittee was the varying practice in how Circuit Managers were viewed and utilised in the various provinces with some reduced to nothing more than messengers. This variation also reflected in the levels of appointment of Circuit Managers across the country. The Roundtable was also organised to prepare concrete proposals in all matters related to Circuit Managers for the consideration of HEDCOM. These would of course take cognisance of all Collective Agreements in the area as well as the Amended Policy on the Organisation, Roles and Responsibilities of Education Districts (January 2018).

In her opening address the Deputy Director-General for Planning and Delivery Oversight, Mrs Palesa Tyobeka said, “Circuit Managers are at the coalface of basic education delivery and it is through them that we can truly transform education. Regrettably it is this level of management that has been largely neglected and has not enjoyed the level of support they need to take their rightful place as leaders in education.

“The aim of today’s Roundtable is to place Circuit Managers under the microscope; to collectively craft and agree on their core responsibilities, the quality of men and women to be recruited into these positions, the knowledge and skills required – and together agree on a capability building programme that all Circuit Managers should undergo to acquire these skills sets.

The Roundtable was anchored on emerging best practice and initiatives from around the country, notably KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape and Limpopo Provinces. After very robust and exciting discussions a five-person Task Team was appointed.

In concluding the Roundtable, the participants agreed on the establishment of a small high-level Task Team that will prepare a discussion document to be considered by HEDCOM at their December workshop.





# Second Chance to make the right decision



“Everyone can rise above their circumstances and achieve success if they are dedicated to and passionate about what they do,” said Former President Nelson Mandela, who incidentally hails from the Eastern Cape which was the locale for the most recent provincial Second Chance Matric Support Programme roadshows.

During the roadshows which took place in Queenstown and Mdantsane, on 30 June and 01 July 2018 respectively, Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, re-iterated Madiba’s words while addressing out-of-school youth who, because of previous choices or circumstances beyond their control, could not sit for their matric examinations. According to Minister Motshekga everyone deserves a second chance at improving their circumstances, hence the establishment of the Second Chance Matric Support Programme in 2016.

Addressing the youth in the packed to capacity hall in Mdantsane, Minister Motshekga said, “Having a matric certificate opens doors to more opportunities like government programmes, post matric studies, employment or skills development opportunities; and the Second Chance Support Programme offers you access to the key to open those doors. We will support you, but most of the effort must come from you; the onus on how you leverage the advantage provided by the Programme is on you.”

As part of Motshekga’s delegation to Queenstown, the MEC for Education in the Free State province, Mr Pule Makgoe, encouraged the attendees to, “never in your life give up”. He also shared best-practice with officials from the Education District Offices, as his province has been consistently in the top three position in past examination results. The education officials provided district-specific details about the programme, exam registrations and class attendance whilst also interacting with the audience during the question and answer sessions.

“You are never too old to try again! You may register for your Second Chance at any age, and as long as you’re willing, meet the set criteria, and are dedicated, we will support you,” said Minister Motshekga in her closing remarks.

# Director-General visits Winter Schools across the country



Motivating learners is one of the major challenges teachers face on a daily basis. Conceptualised as learners' energy and drive to engage, learn, work effectively, and achieve their potential at school, motivation and engagement play a large role in learners' interest and enjoyment of school. Understandably, both also play huge roles in academic achievement. Consequently, those learners who are motivated by and engaged in learning tend to perform considerably higher academically and are better-behaved than unmotivated and unengaged peers.

Learner engagement, described as the tendency to be behaviourally, emotionally, and cognitively involved in academic activities, is a key construct for motivating learners. Compared to less engaged peers, engaged learners demonstrate more effort, experience more positive emotions and pay more attention in the classroom. Cognisant of the nature of learner motivation and engagement, the Director-General of Basic Education, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli began his visits to Winter Schools on 23 June 2018 with the intention to present a motivational talk to huge numbers of Grade 12 learners and their tutors, as learners gear up for the forthcoming National Senior Certificate Examinations.

The key motivational messages delivered by the Director-General can be summarised in three points: listen to your teachers; do what the teachers advise you to do; and work hard.

Teachers' advice and a chain of positive thoughts are catalysts that will spark extra-ordinary results. If one has a positive attitude and constantly strives to give his/her best effort, eventually he/she will overcome his/her immediate problems and find he/she is ready for greater challenges.

The Winter School Programme is the largest learner support intervention in the education sector. While the size and scope of the winter school programmes differ across all provinces, all the programmes have a common purpose which is geared towards improving learner performance. Mr Mveli intends to visit more than 50 centres during June and July 2018.

Click on the below link to for the brochure on the Director-General's Winter School Programme:

<https://www.education.gov.za/WinterClasses04072018.aspx>



# Professional Development Framework for Digital Learning

## training commences in full-force to enhance educator competencies to facilitate digital learning

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK FOR DIGITAL LEARNING



The *Professional Development Framework for Digital Learning* has been approved for implementation to provide the various role players within the education sector with clarity on professional development for digital learning. Capacity building roadshows have therefore been scheduled across all provinces, commencing in the North West Province from 09 to 11 July 2018. The purpose of the roadshows will be the capacity building of Provincial Core Training Teams (PCTTs) as well as the training of subject advisors in various disciplines in preparation for provincial roll-outs; and this will involve the training of teachers. In addition to the planned sessions in provinces, workshops for providers of digital learning courses as well as education faculty members at Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) will take place on 17 and 26 July 2018 respectively in Johannesburg.

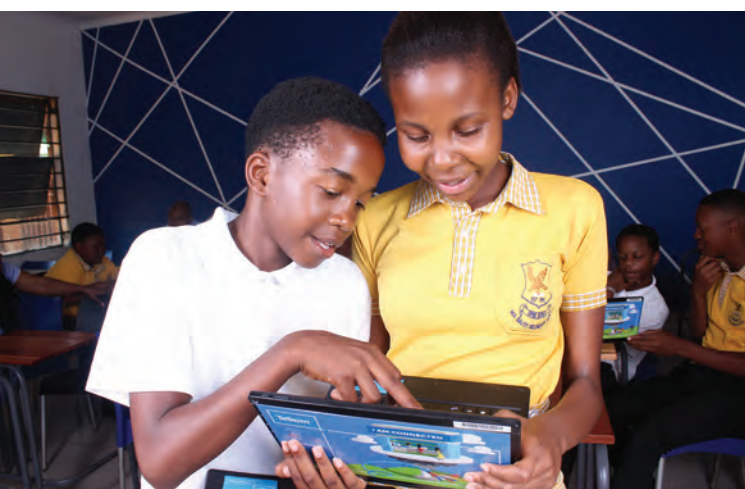
It is necessary for teacher professional development to specifically address how digital tools and resources can support teaching, and enhance learning in different subjects within the wide range of socio-economic contexts that South African teachers encounter.

The main aim of the *Framework* is to provide guidelines for professional development, specifically to ensure competent educators who use ICTs to enhance teaching and learning, and leaders and support staff who are able to facilitate the development of educator digital learning competencies.

The primary target audience of the *Framework* is teacher trainers, school leaders and teachers, e-learning specialists and curriculum subject specialists. It further aims to define professional

development for digital learning in an education system that seeks to improve access, quality, equity, redress and efficiency. Achieving this aim will ensure that teachers have a clear plan for their individual needs for professional development in digital learning using digital tools and content resources.

Digital learning, which encompasses e-learning and mobile learning, describes learning that uses appropriate digital tools and resources to strengthen a teacher's teaching and a learner's learning experience resulting in more effective achievement of curriculum learning objectives. This *Framework* views digital learning as a more modern expression of "ICT integration", which is itself a broader concept than "IT skills". Key to achieving the goals of this Framework are the educator competencies in planning and facilitating digital learning, which will form the basis of a teacher's needs analysis and planning for professional development in digital learning. Teachers seeking to more effectively achieve the curriculum aims and objectives will seek competence in digital learning in three key areas: Professional Growth, Curriculum Focus and Leadership.





# Capacity building initiatives on audit matters

The Directorate: Sector Audit Outcomes has initiated a process of developing Circulars (M1 to M5 of 2017) in an effort to assist the sector to comply with acts, regulations, and conform to policies. The development of these circulars were introduced as a result of the repeated findings raised by the Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA), external investigative bodies and the Directorate in their reports which necessitated interventions by the Department of Basic Education (DBE) to reduce findings. Recommendations to remediate the findings on personnel administration of educators, disclosure of interest by public servants, and compliance to Section 42 and 43 of the *South African Schools Act* (SASA) were subsequently approved by the Director-General and published on the website under National Circulars, and the Sector Audit Outcomes webpage.

The Directorate has received positive feedback on the circulars which necessitated workshops to be conducted on the circulars in an effort to initiate consistency and accurate interpretation of circulars across all provinces. The first workshop took place on 03 July 2018 in collaboration with the Gauteng Education Department (GDE) and District Managers within the Province, and this will be a continuous effort to capacitate all nine provinces. The objective of these workshops is to build the education sector's capacity in educating on audit matters, and to reach a common understanding in order to ascertain accurate and uniform implementation of circulars throughout all provinces.



## Provincial Round-up

### Limpopo Province



The Limpopo Basic Education Department is saddened by the death of a pupil at a winter support camp which commenced at Kgobuki Primary School for 298 learners from eight secondary schools on 24 June 2018. Benedict Phaswane Monene, a Grade 12 learner from Mphari Secondary School in Mogalakwena, Baltimore Circuit, Waterberg District was playing football when he suddenly collapsed and was rushed to Mankuwe clinic where he was sadly certified dead. According to the Department, Monene's family indicated that the boy experienced health problems. Monene was attending the two-week winter support camp as part of curbing the high Grade 12 failure rate. After receiving the sad news, the host principal called other members of management at the centre where a decision was taken to discontinue the camp.

### Western Cape



The Western Cape Education Department (WCED), in collaboration with Automation Works, are hosting a Winter Workshop for learners at the Northpine Technical High School in the Western Cape from 02 to 06 July 2018. Grade 10 and 11 learners from technical high schools across the Western Cape will be exposed to various topics and career opportunities such as: Biomedics, Control Systems, Megatronics, Bionics and Pneumatics at the practical workshops. There will be exhibitors and interactive sessions from a variety of institutions including the University of Stellenbosch, the University of Cape Town, the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, Engineering Faculties, Student Recruitment Offices and automation providers such as Siemens and Festo. The morning and afternoon sessions will afford learners practical experience and will be taking place between 08h00 and 16h00.

# Upcoming Events

- 07 July 2018: Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mwel, will be conducting his Winter School monitoring visits in the KwaZulu-Natal Province
- 09 July 2018: Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mwel, will be conducting his Winter School monitoring visits in the Eastern Cape Province
- 09 to 11 July 2018: The Professional Development Framework for Digital Learning capacity building roadshows will commence in Rustenburg, North West Province.
- 10 July 2018: Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mwel, 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

**Enquiries:**

**Editor: Mr Elijah Mhlanga**

**Chief Director: Media Liaison - National and Provincial Communication**

**Tel. No: 012 357 3773**