



THUTO

PRODUCED BY:
THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



NEWSLETTER

Play-based learning under the spotlight in the basic education sector in Africa



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, addressed delegates during the South African National Conference on Play-Based Learning, which took place at the Department of Basic Education (DBE). The Conference was held on 09 July 2018 under the theme: “Back to the basics for lifelong learning”. Minister Motshekga endorsed the power of collaboration, saying that the partnership brings together key role players to strengthen play as the critical component of learning. “Children learn through play the skills they will apply to more complex tasks. It is important to encourage teachers to use different teaching styles to strengthen learning through play.”

Play is regarded as critical in establishing vital learning skills from infancy and throughout an individual’s lifespan. The purpose of the Conference was to facilitate dialogue on the link between the Grade 12 results in Mathematics and Language, and the foundational knowledge and skills that are developed through play-based learning in ECD and the Foundation Phase of education.

Dr Mamiki Maboya, Deputy Director-General for Curriculum Policy, Support and Monitoring, said that, “Evidence shows that a play-based approach to learning allows children to better understand mathematical and language concepts and to become creative, solution-oriented learners who are prepared for the opportunities and challenges of the 21st Century, in accordance with *Sustainable Development Goal*, no. 4, and the promotion of lifelong learning.”

Director for Curriculum Implementation and Quality Improvement (FET), Ms Cheryl Weston, indicated that the *National Senior Certificate 2017: Diagnostic Report on the Grade 12 Results*, shows that there remains a significant challenge regarding Mathematics and Language at the end of formal schooling, and that these challenges have their roots far earlier than the FET phase of education. Grade R and Grade 3 topics are not fully mastered, and intervention in Mathematics and Language is required in the Early Childhood Development (ECD) and Foundation Phase.

Reflecting on the Conference, Director for Early Childhood Development, Ms Marie-Louise Samuels, touched on the successes of the online training initiative, recognised with the South African Council of Educators (SACE) that will equip 150,000 professionals to effectively implement play-based learning based on the *National Curriculum Framework* and the National Curriculum Statement. Some of the actions that need to be followed up on include: strengthening the relationship with teacher development and training, as well as social cohesion, using materials and indigenous knowledge that parents have access to, in order to stimulate learning through play. “We require a South African model of learning and teaching, and to develop a minimum package for promoting play-based learning across the system,” she concluded.

Valuable presentations were made by Mr Michael Renvillard from the LEGO Foundation, Ms Monica Stach, Chief Operating Officer, Cotlands, and Ms Cally Kahune from the Schools Development Unit at the University of Cape Town. Similar conferences on play-based learning are currently taking place across various provinces and the input received from both national and provincial levels will be incorporated into a comprehensive report for discussion during the Continental Seminar that is scheduled to take place later this year.



Basic Education Deputy Minister urges community members to work together in advancing quality teaching in schools



Basic Education Deputy Minister, Mr Enver Surty, joined by the North West MEC for Health, Mr Magome Masike, undertook a two day visit to Taung and Sekhing in the North West Province to monitor the state of service delivery in respect of health and education. The visit, which took place from 12 to 13 July 2018, was conducted as part of the eighth National Imbizo Focus Week aimed at fostering better relations with communities as another alternative to improve the living conditions of South African citizens. The Imbizo was also initiated in response to issues of poverty, unemployment and the increased level of violence and brutality against women and children in South Africa.

Speaking at the Imbizo, Mr Surty said it is befitting to celebrate the centenary of Tata Nelson Mandela and Mme Albertina Sisulu to honour the incredible work that they have done to advance human rights and social justice.

Deputy Minister Surty highlighted the strides made in improving quality education in schools: “Ten years ago, more than 80% of our bachelor passes and distinctions were obtained by learners in fee-paying schools. The 2017 National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examination results, recorded 56% of bachelor passes and distinctions achieved by learners in no-fee schools. The DBE has worked hard in achieving access to basic education. More than 1 million children are enrolled in Grade R annually. All these learners receive four workbooks each to assist them in improving literacy and numeracy”.

“Although there has been significant achievement in terms of redress and equity, much still needs to be done. We are working hard as the Department in dealing with deficits that might comprise quality education in our schools. School safety, school infrastructure, drugs and substance abuse are matters of concern in various school communities. In response to the questions raised by community members, the DBE, in partnership with the South African Police Service (SAPS), initiated the Adopt-A-School programme to eliminate social ills in 40, 000 schools. This shows that we are moving in the right direction as the education sector,” added Deputy Minister Surty.

Another aspect that requires attention is community unrest. Schools are unable to function effectively because of protest action. Deputy Minister Surty said that it is not acceptable for community members to interrupt quality teaching because of their dissatisfaction with Government. Concerns need to be addressed procedurally without interrupting schooling. In addition to the above, the DBE and the Department of Health will continue to work together to empower learners with the necessary knowledge around sexuality education. “Health screening and prevention should be promoted in the schooling environment as part of the Care and Support Programme for Teaching and Learning. Our children are sexually active and lack adequate knowledge to deal with the adversities of life,” concluded Deputy Minister Surty.

DBE and partners promoting healthy lifestyles in our schools



The DBE, in collaboration with Nestlé SA and Woolworths SA, will mark International Mandela Day with a variety of activities to promote healthy living and lifestyles among school going children. The celebrations will take place at Dr Nhlapo Intermediate School in Boipatong on 18 July 2018. Phuthulla Primary School learners will also be participating in the celebration. Another celebration with Woolworths SA will be hosted on 20 July 2018 at Zakheni Primary School in Duduza, Gauteng East District.

The aim of the celebrations is to support the curriculum in ensuring that healthy lifestyles and nutrition education is promoted by Volunteer Food Handlers (VFHs), educators, parents and learners in schools. Key to these campaigns is the promotion of healthy eating habits, avoiding unhealthy food and the understanding of a balanced diet, as well as the importance of physical activity as part of a learner's daily routine.

Empowering and motivating change agents in schools

The vision of the Youth Citizens Action Programme (Y-CAP) is to bring about new generations of active South African citizens. A collaboration between the Empowervate Trust and the DBE, for the past nine years, has been providing social entrepreneurship and life skills through its Y-CAP toolkit and workshops, as well as platforms for learners to showcase their impactful and sustainable projects.

During Youth Month and Mandela Month, district events, followed by provincial events have been taking place throughout the country to identify the most impactful projects from each category and province.

Y-CAP mostly fits into the subjects of Economic Management Science, Life Orientation and Business Studies. The programme encourages a problem-solving and values-driven mind-set which is the precursor to social entrepreneurship.

The provincial winning teams from nine primary and nine secondary school categories will present their projects at the annual Y-CAP National Championships hosted at Swadini Resort at the Blyderivierspoort Nature Reserve, Hoedspruit in the Limpopo Province from 27 to 29 July 2018.

The programme's major sponsors through Empowervate Trust are: Deutsche Bank South Africa Foundation, DSV Mounties and Airports Company South Africa (ACSA), with Airlink and Europcar.



Collaboration workshop on the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Financial Statements in Public Ordinary Schools*



The Sector Audit Outcomes Directorate, in partnership with the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA), hosted a workshop on the Draft *Guidelines for the Preparation of Financial Statements in Public Ordinary Schools* on 09 July 2018. Mr Julius Mojapelo, Senior Executive: Public Sector at SAICA, presented the Draft Guideline to Chief Financial Officers and Chief Financial Officers from all nine provinces.

It was indicated at the beginning of the workshop that the guideline had been drafted in accordance with the *South African Schools Act* (SASA) requirements in an effort to minimise Auditor-General of South Africa findings with regard to school financial mismanagement. This provided a platform for Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) to make comments/inputs with regard to the draft guidelines. These included what should be reflected in schools' financial statements and will provide helpful for the proper analysis of a schools financial performance and accountability. Provinces participated exceptionally well and appreciated the initiative.

Amongst other comments/inputs made, the following were mentioned: the draft guideline to be submitted to a language practitioner to assist with minimising the language barrier that could arise from the usage of jargon; examples used in the guideline to be limited to those directly applicable at school level; and the development of a Chart of Accounts.

The objective of this initiative is to provide a National Guideline which will be presented to Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, for approval. Thereafter, once approved, all provinces will be afforded an opportunity to utilise this Guideline when developing their own guidelines in provinces. This will address the non-compliance finding of Section 42 of the *South African Schools Act*. Further recommendations were made that the DBE gazette this guideline to become a National Policy.

Provincial Round-up

Eastern Cape Province



Approximately 400 Youth-in-Infrastructure candidates from the Eastern Cape Province received an official send off from the Provincial Government, led by Premier Pumulo Masualle and MEC Mandla Makupula at the Military Base in Grahamstown on 12 July 2018. These candidates have completed their core training as Facility Maintenance Officers (FMOs). This programme was made possible by a partnership of Provincial Government (led by Education) with the South African Defence Force (SANDF). The SANDF played a critical role in skilling these youth to help maintain school infrastructure, including fixing dripping taps, broken doors and brick laying. This six months programme commenced during February 2018 for the first cohort. The first three months of training was class-based and also focussed on character building, whilst the final three months was dedicated to practicals which took place in identified schools across the province. This initiative is part of the Provincial Youth Development Strategy which seeks to empower young people with skills to enable them to become employable.

North West Province



The Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga, led a delegation of senior managers to the North West Province on 11 July 2018, as part of the national intervention activities in the province. The Minister had a productive meeting with the MEC, Mr Jonas Sello Lehari and senior managers of the North West Education and Sport Development Department, to plot a way-forward and foster a positive working relationship through the signing of a formal intervention protocol between the two departments.

The Minister introduced the newly appointed Administrator, Mr Nkhono Johannes Mohlala, who will be responsible for the key focus areas of the Accounting Officer, based on the findings of the Inter-Ministerial Task Team (IMTT) Assessment Report, regarding legislative prescripts, strategic plans and annual performance plans. Mr Mohlala will be responsible for implementing the intervention areas identified in the Section 100(1)(b) intervention plan, which was aligned to be in line with the overarching Memorandum of Understanding signed between the national Government and the Provincial Government of the North West. He will also be required to provide progress reports on the implementation of the Intervention and Operational Plans to the Minister, and identify risks to service delivery, as well remediation steps to address the identified risks.

Upcoming Events

- 14 July 2018: Minister Angie Motshekga will be engaging with community members on the Second Chance Matric Programme during a roadshow at Masiphumelele High School, Fishoek 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* at the Southern Sun Hotel, OR Tambo International Airport in the Gauteng Province
- 18 July 2018: The National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP), in partnership with Nestlé SA, will be celebrating Nelson Mandela International Day with learners at Dr Nhlapo Intermediate School in Boipatong, Gauteng Province. Learners from Phutulla Primary School will also join in the celebrations
- 19 July 2018: A Lunchbox Lekgotla seminar will be taking place at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 20 July 2018: The National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) will collaborate with Woolworths SA to celebrate Nelson Mandela International Day at Zakheni Primary School in Duduza, Gauteng East District, Gauteng Province
- 26 July 2018: A workshop with Higher Education Institutions is scheduled to take place on the *Professional Development Framework for Digital Learning* at the Southern Sun Hotel, OR Tambo International Airport in the Gauteng Province
- 27 – 29 July 2018: The national finals of the Youth Citizens Action Programme (YCAP) 2018 will be hosted at Swadini Resort, Blyderivierspoort Nature Reserve in Hoedspruit, Limpopo Province
- 30 July – 04 August 2018: The *Professional Development Framework for Digital Learning* capacity building roadshow will be taking place in the KwaZulu-Natal Province
- 13 – 17 August 2018: The *Professional Development Framework for Digital Learning* capacity building roadshow will be taking place in the Gauteng 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
- 26 September 2018: The World School Milk Day (WSMD) national celebration will be taking place at Kruifontein Primary School in the Eastern Cape 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
- 09 – 22 October 2018: So Chef! Workshops will be taking place in partnership with the Embassy of France at four selected secondary schools offering Consumer Study/Hospitality subjects in four provinces
- 11 October 2018: The National Nutrition Week (NNW) national celebrations will be hosted at Seganyane Primary School in Acornhoek, Bohlabela District, Mpumalanga Province
- 20 October 2018: The National Public Servants Sports and Cultural Event Tournament (NPSSCE) will be taking place at Hillview High School, Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 11 – 18 November 2018: The national adjudication process for the 19th Annual Teaching Awards (NTAs) will be taking place in the 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
- 16 February 2019: The 19th Annual Teaching Awards (NTAs) be taking place in the Gauteng Province
- 28 February – 01 March 2019: National School Nutrition Programme Forum and commemoration of Africa Day of School Feeding 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