



# THUTO

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THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



## NEWSLETTER

# Former American President, Mr Barack Obama, delivers Nelson Mandela Lecture



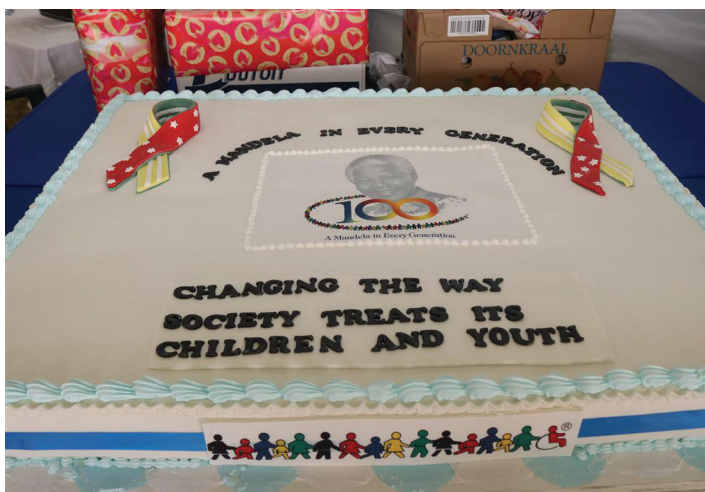
Madiba's legacy has been rekindled with a series of activities forming part of the celebration of International Nelson Mandela Day across the country.

More than 15,000 people united in diversity gathered at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg on 17 July 2018, where the 16th Nelson Mandela Lecture took place. Education was a prominent feature as former American President, Mr Barack Obama, took to the podium to remind the world about the important values that Madiba stood for as the first black South African President and struggle icon. The theme of the lecture was: "Renewing the Mandela Legacy and Promoting Active Citizenship in a Changing World", with a focus on creating conditions for bridging divides, working across ideological lines and resisting oppression and inequality.

Mr Obama encouraged political leaders to embrace democracy and ensure that children, irrespective of race and gender, acquire quality education. He further stated that children must be taught requisite skills to become problem solvers, analytical leaders and critical thinkers.

Obama urged the youth to follow in Madiba's footsteps to change the character of society through education. "As political leaders we have to strive for protecting democracy to create equal opportunities for all global citizens," said Mr Obama, adding that Madiba's legacy should help people to ignite the spirit of Ubuntu and root out any form of discrimination in society. He then pleaded with political leaders to strive for peace, human rights and social justice to promote a sense of belonging and togetherness.

# Minister Motshekga encourages local and international communities to build a better world for Madiba





Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, accepted an invitation to attend a Children’s celebration held at the French International School in Johannesburg on 16 July 2018.

The event was organised by the French Embassy, in collaboration with the Nelson Mandela Children’s Fund, to afford children an opportunity to celebrate the Centenary of Nelson Mandela. More than 250 children from seven townships in the Gauteng Province participated in a sports competition and visual art activities aimed at promoting the legacy of Mandela. Mandela celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday ten years ago at the same school, in the presence of the French Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs in charge of Human Rights, Mrs Rama Yade.

In his address, H.E. Mr Nicolas Hulot, Minister for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition of France, indicated that the level of co-operation between South Africa and France has ongoing momentum. “We have promising projects with the forthcoming signature of an agreement between the French Department of Basic Education (Ministère de l’Education Nationale) and the Department of Basic Education (DBE). This will focus on three areas of cooperation including the training of science teachers on innovative methods for the teaching of science; training and exchanges for schools principals; and cooperation on technical and vocational education.”

The DBE is implementing several programmes as part of the co-operation with the French Embassy in South Africa. The purpose of the existing collaboration is the promotion of nutrition education and the French Language in South African schools. The official signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the DBE and the French Embassy took place on 25 April 2016 by Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mweli, and the Ambassador of France to South Africa, Ms Elisabeth Barbier.

Chief Executive for the Nelson Mandela Children’s Fund, Bongi Mkhabela, mentioned: “Our main objective through this event is to familiarise children with the values of Tata Nelson Mandela to build a better world. Our focus this year was to educate children about the journey that Madiba took in the liberation of South Africa. Madiba always celebrated his birthdays with children, so having them gathering in this manner affords us an opportunity to carry his legacy through to children of various ethnic groups”.

Minister Motshekga commended the Embassy and the Nelson Mandela Children’s Fund for taking Madiba’s legacy forward. “Peace, unity, humanity and a love for children were Madiba’s key focus points during his tenure as the first democratically elected President of South Africa,” said the Minister. Minister Motshekga described Madiba as a visionary leader who always embraced human rights and social justice and further called upon South Africans to emulate Madiba through his legacy and build a better world.



## DBE partners with Hyundai and Imperial Trust to deliver a fully furnished library to Eldorado Community





As part of celebrating International Nelson Mandela Day, Basic Education Deputy Minister, Mr Enver Surty, officially handed over a library and resource centre, donated by Hyundai and Imperial Trust to the Eldorado Community in Lenasia on 18 July 2018.

The hand-over ceremony at Heerengracht Primary School will benefit many children who are in need of a library to explore the world through books. The partnership between the DBE, Hyundai and Imperial Trust has contributed to more than 35 libraries in public schools and is aiming to deliver a target of 70 libraries during 2018.

The contribution made through partnerships with the education sector plays a crucial role in improving quality learning and teaching. The provision of libraries to public schools is one of the most critical undertakings to change the landscape of education in both the General Education and Training and Further Education and Training bands. The DBE, through its *Read to Lead Campaign*, has delivered more than 6,000 libraries to various school communities across all nine provinces with a common goal of promoting a reading revolution in South Africa.

Speaking at the handover ceremony, Deputy Minister Surty said that, “A reader is not only a brilliant leader but a good speaker. Learners must utilise libraries to learn more about the history of South Africa and understand the struggle their leaders undertook to liberate the continent. We have to promote history to build a strong nation. Madiba stood for human dignity, equality and freedom. Our task is to take the struggle forward to build a non-racial, non-sexist nation that embraces humanity. Unless we are able to respect people of different colour, we will not be able to achieve social cohesion in this country”.

Deputy Minister Surty also touched on the Fourth Industrial Revolution: “The DBE has digitised approximately 80% of textbooks for high enrolment subjects such as Mathematics, Physical Science and Accounting. Through collaboration we can do more. Government, the business sector, civil society and faith-based organisations must come on-board to help Government in improving quality education in South Africa. I urge all learners irrespective of colour, race, religion and culture to participate in extracurricular activities such as the National Schools Moot Court Competition, the ABC Motsepe South African School Choral Eisteddfod (SASCE), the Spelling Bee and Reading Club Programme and the Youth Citizens Action Programme (Y-CAP) to unite in diversity”.



## DBE and Nestlé South Africa promote healthy eating in schools on Mandela Day





DBE Director for the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP), Ms Neo Sediti, visited Dr Nhlope Intermediate School in Boipatong in the Gauteng Province on 18 July 2018, under the International Nelson Mandela Day theme: “Be the legacy,” to educate children about healthy eating. The event was organised by Nestlé SA in partnership with the DBE to honour the legacy of Nelson Mandela and Mrs Albertina Sisulu as part of the Centenary Celebrations.

“We have chosen to spend our 67 Minutes for Madiba at this school to promote healthy eating so that our children receive a balanced meal daily and are well-nourished. The NSNP was initiated at primary school level during 1994 when Madiba took office. At the time only bread and a vitamin enriched drink was served in targeted schools. The Programme progressively evolved with the expansion to secondary schools, growing in leaps and bounds. Currently, approximately 9,2 million learners benefit nationally, said Ms Sediti.

“Today, I am thrilled because this Programme is providing our learners with a variety of meals that constitute protein, starch, vegetables and fruit throughout the entire school calendar”. Ms Sediti added that Provincial Education Department (PEDs) are key in the implementation of the NSNP as they assist the DBE in spreading the message of healthy eating in schools and encourage learners to participate in physical exercise.

DBE Director for School Safety, Mr Paseka Njobe, joined learners as they sang songs of praise for Madiba. Addressing learners, Mr Njobe said that Madiba fought for human dignity and democracy, adding that no learner must be deprived of the opportunity of acquiring quality education because of bullying, which is a major challenge in schools. “Let us adopt Madiba’s legacy to challenge those who bully others for the learning and teaching environment to be conducive to learning.” Mr Njobe also encouraged learners to speak out in reporting incidences of bullying to teachers for further assistance.



## DBE hosts workshop for providers of professional development in digital learning in Johannesburg





Output 1 of the *Integrated Strategic Planning Framework for Teacher Education and Development (ISPFTED) 2011-2025* calls for individual and systemic teacher development needs to be identified and addressed. It's with this background that the DBE developed the *Professional Development Framework for Digital Learning* (PDFDL), supported by a digital learning self-assessment tool which links teachers' professional development needs with endorsed courses. The DBE hosted a workshop for course providers of digital learning in Johannesburg on 17 July 2018, to introduce the Framework and explain the tools used to establish the alignment of their courses with digital learning competencies.

The aim of the Framework is to define professional development for digital learning in an education system that seeks to improve access, quality, equity, redress and efficiency. The Framework aims to facilitate the development of educators' digital learning competencies in order to enhance teaching and learning.

A key understanding of the Framework is that mere access to digital tools and resources is meaningless unless the opportunities of that access are known, valued and put into practice. This implies not only an awareness of what those opportunities are, but a realisation that new approaches to teaching and learning could reap rewards. "Digital learning is an environment where teaching is transformed and where learning is an ongoing, creative process. This requires a changing teaching and learning methodology where teachers and learners will have to access high quality, relevant and diverse resources; communicating and collaborating; and creating and presenting new knowledge", said workshop facilitator and DBE Deputy Director for LTSM Policy Development and Innovation, Mr Gerald Roos.

The real value of the Framework lies in developing teachers who are able to gain a clear understanding of how digital tools and resources can be used to support the attainment of educational outcomes. In order to achieve this, Provincial Departments of Education have been asked to establish Provincial Core Training Teams (PCTTs). Director for LTSM Policy Development and Innovation, Ms Kulula Manona, said that, "Our aim is to ensure that the PCTTs, as the custodians of driving digital learning within the province are best equipped to navigate this ship through both calm and troubled waters".

The PDFDL roadshows will continue across the country as the Department seeks to ensure that provincial facilitators are well-prepared to introduce the self-assessment tool and digital learning competencies to teachers. Teachers will participate in professional learning communities to develop skills and knowledge bases to use these resources within the classroom.

## 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.

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

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





# Education music ambassadors sing their way to the top



The DBE congratulates two officials, Mr Thapelo Maphanga from Kha Ri Gude and Mr Ellon Nkateko Mnisi from the Security and Asset Management Directorate, who represented South Africa and the City of Tshwane at the 10<sup>th</sup> World Choir Games. South Africa scooped an impressive 76 medals during the Games that took place for the first time on the African continent from 04 to 14 July 2018.

Mr Maphanga performed with the Amazwi Kantu Choir whilst Mr Mnisi performed with the Sefako Makgatho University Choir. This world's choir competition, which took place over 11 days, is the largest international competition on the African continent. Participants engaged in Friendship Concerts and major singing projects as they shared the spirit and character of South African choral music, as well as their common passion for singing.

Mr Mnisi was forced to sing choral music as part of a boys' choir when he was in Grade 5, and only discovered his love for singing during his high school years. He then joined the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) Soshanguve Choir from

2009 to 2014. Since 2015 he has been a member of the Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University Choir that was the winner of the following: the 2015 and 2016 National Choral Music Achievement (NACMA) awards for best choir at South African Tertiary Institution's Choral Association (SATICA); the 2016 Gauteng Choral Music Association (GACMA) standard category champions; and the 2017 large category Tshwane Choral Music Association (TCMA) champions.

"Being part of the 10<sup>th</sup> World Choir Games has afforded us the opportunity to share the stage with many international choirs, as well as being mentored by the best composers and music directors the world has to offer. *Everyone has talent. What's rare is the courage to follow it to the dark places where it leads,*" said Mr Mnisi quoting Erica Jong.

Thapelo Maphanga, started his singing career from an early age in a junior church choir. During 2015, he joined the Amazwi Kantu Choir which sings at professional level. "Owing to Mr Mike Lekoloane, my music tutor at Amazwi Kant, who has played a leading role in my singing career, I have been identified as the lead singer during various competitions. The World Choir Games is one of the biggest competitions we have participated in as Amazwi Kantu Choir. This experience has given us an opportunity to interact with professional music ambassadors from local and international sectors. The competition also plays a very big role in social cohesion. The 10<sup>th</sup> World Choir Games brought together 300 choirs with 16,000 participants from 60 countries."





# Provincial Round-up

## Northern Cape



The Northern Cape Department of Education (NCDoE) celebrated International Nelson Mandela Day on 18 July 2018. As a champion of change, the Province agrees that Mandela was instrumental in reconciliation and ensuring that Africans come together to defeat mutual challenges and that all South Africans have a responsibility to promote freedom and defend our democracy in honour of Madiba’s life-long commitment to these ideals. The NCDoE therefore encouraged all Districts Offices to identify a school to hand over 100 pairs of school shoes to deserving learners in honour of the commemoration. The donation of school shoes, especially during the cold winter months when the learners have to tackle “the long walk” to school, contributes to the restoration of their dignity, instils self-confidence, provides a feeling of belonging and ultimately contributes to the quality of education.

As part of the Nelson Mandela Centenary Celebrations, 100 schools have also been identified to receive library books to promote a reading culture amongst learners. The MEC for Education, Ms Martha Bartlett visited the Omang Primary School in the John Toalo Gaetsewe District saying, “We remain inspired by the ideals of Nelson Mandela and his beliefs in Education. Nelson Mandela has been one of the great modern and political leaders of our time, an international icon who embarked on a lifelong dedication to the fight against injustice and racial oppression. *We can change the world and make it a better place. It is in your hands to make a difference*” she concluded, quoting Madiba.

## Western Cape



**BETTER TOGETHER.**

Western Cape Education MEC, Ms Debbie Schäfer, congratulated six Western Cape learners who formed part of the South African team who participated in the 59<sup>th</sup> International Mathematics Olympiad in Romania from 03 to 14 July 2018. The IMO team was selected after a nationwide Mathematical Talent Search conducted by the South African Mathematics Foundation. A total of 110 countries took part in the competition. South Africa has taken part in the IMO every year since 1992, and in 2014 the event was held in Cape Town - the first IMO in Africa. South Africa was ranked 62<sup>nd</sup>, the best of the ten African countries taking part (Algeria, Botswana, Egypt, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa, Tunisia, Uganda). In the International ranking the top ten countries were the USA, Russia, China, Ukraine, Thailand, Taiwan, South Korea, Singapore, Poland, and Indonesia. Mathematics is a crucial subject for so many skills needed in the modern economy.



# Upcoming Events

- 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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

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