



# THUTO

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THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



## NEWSLETTER

# Minister Motshekga advises Grade 9 learners on subject choices



"It is a very exciting time for you as you make important decisions regarding your future that could impact the rest of your life. Picking subjects that will enable you to go pursue your preferred career is vital if you hope to be enrolled in the tertiary courses of your choice. It is important that you do research now, to find out what subjects you will need for your preferred career choice.

I would encourage you to follow your dreams and not to follow your friends as you make these vital decisions.

You are fortunate that, this year, the Department of Higher Education and Training has withdrawn the list of designated subjects. This means that all subjects will contribute to you gaining points towards your university application; however, it is still very important to make sure that you know which subjects will gain you access to what University courses.

For example if you want to study Accountancy, you will still need to take pure Mathematics and Accounting, however if you want to study Marketing, then emphasis on languages is key.

I would like to also remind you that there are options outside of traditional university courses that could make you very successful. These include your TVET institutions and colleges that focus on skills development and the training of artisans that are vital for the growth of our economy.

Good luck as you make these decisions, and think carefully," Minister Motshekga advised all Grade 9 learners.

# Mathematics and Science Matric Revision Programme launched in Sandton





“In Mathematics, zero may be worth nothing standing alone, but together with another number it has value”, said Basic Education Deputy Minister, Mr Enver Surty, referring to the value of partnerships during the launch of the 2018 eduCate Mathematics and Science Matric Revision Programme. The launch took place at the Sandton Convention Centre in the Gauteng Province on 16 August 2018.

The eduCate Programme is a Primestars’ initiative that is dedicated to supporting Mathematics and Science learners by providing tuition in Ster-Kinekor cinemas on Sundays where they watch Science videos. During these screenings a tutor is also present to explain and support learners on the content being screened. Since 2007, over 156,000 learners have participated in the Programme.

During the launch, the Managing Director for Primestars, Mr Martin Sweet, mentioned that Mathematics and Science is essential for the evolving world. He also presented a Trail Blazer’s Award to the South African mathematician and researcher, Professor Mamokgeth Phakeng, a Vice-Chancellor at the University of Cape Town. “We want our children to aspire to the values of hard work; there is no working smart before you have worked hard,” said Professor Phakeng.

In conclusion, Deputy Minister Surty thanked Primestars for the sterling work they continue to do and wished them well in future endeavours. Mr Surty also encouraged school learners to work hard to obtain excellent results in Physical Science and Mathematics during the National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examinations.

The 2018 launch saw performances from well-known musicians, Vusi Nova and Zama Radebe, who entertained the guests during the opening and closing of the event.

## Women united in moving the education sector forward



The 2018 Women’s Month commemoration marks the centenary of Mama Albertina Sisulu under the theme: “Woman of Fortitude: Women United in Moving South Africa Forward”, as well as the 62 years anniversary of the Women’s March to the Union Buildings in 1956.

The 2018 Women’s Month programme of activities aims to highlight women’s struggle heritage in South Africa and pay tribute to those whose struggles laid the foundations for women’s rights and democracy today. This will focus on Albertina Sisulu and other struggle heroines, past and present.

Celebrating some of the most impressive women in the history of our country, Constitution Hill and the Department of Basic Education (DBE), along with the Gauteng Department of Education, will be hosting a Women’s Day event on 11 September 2018, to share the stories and life of struggle icon, Mama Albertina Sisulu.

During 2017, Minister Motshekga honoured women stalwarts such as Mme Adelaide Tambo, Charlotte Maxeke and Cecile Palmer at Constitution Hill for their contribution to the liberation struggle: “To them and their generation, we owe a debt of gratitude for their selfless contribution to the liberation of our country from the yoke of the apartheid pariah regime. With their passing, a century of struggle went with them. It is our duty to keep their memory alive. It is our moral responsibility to ensure that their legacy lives on”.

Learners were also taken on a tour of the Women’s Prison and listened to the stories about women who were kept in the prison and tortured, from one of the women who experienced it first hand, Ms Cecile Palmer. Palmer shared the little known story of Minister Motshekga’s own time in prison during the state of emergency under the apartheid Government, when she was incarcerated with Palmer’s mother. Representatives from the Maxeke and Tambo families also shared their perspectives on the lives of these great women which gave a personal perspective on the sacrifices made by these women.

# WOMEN'S DAY 2018

**100 YEARS OF ALBERTINA SISULU:**

*Woman of Fortitude*

**WOMEN UNITED IN MOVING SOUTH AFRICA FORWARD**



## Examinations update



### **2018 National Senior Certificate Examinations 22 October - 28 November 2018**

Learners from across the country will be sitting for their National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examinations from 22 October to 28 November 2018.

In the meantime the 2018 Amended Senior Certificate (SC) Examination Results are available online and at Examination Centres.

A Senior Certificate will be achieved by an adult candidate who satisfies the following requirements in these examinations: Pass three subjects at 40%, one of which must be an official language at Home Language level; Pass two subjects at 30%, one of which must be an official language at First Additional or Home Language level, and Obtain a subminimum of 20% in the sixth subject.

The results reflected on the website are the results of the individual subjects written in the 2018 Senior Certificate Examination. Only candidates who wrote and are resulted in six or more subjects will obtain a result status, otherwise the status will be reflected as "Incomplete". The Statement of Results will be available at Examination Centres from 17 August 2018 up until 23 August 2018. Enquiries could be made at centres where the examinations were written or at District or Provincial offices.

Click on the below link to access the individual SC(a) results:

<https://www.education.gov.za/MatricResults/ExamResults/tabid/175/Default.aspx>.

## Data collection for the Early Grade Reading Study





*Photo Credit: Fieldwork Training, Khulisa Management Services*

The DBE, in collaboration with Khulisa Management Services, will be collecting data from 230 schools in the Dr Kenneth Kaunda and Ngaka Modiri Molema Districts in the North West Province from 27 August to 21 September 2018. This data will be used to evaluate the longer term effects of the Early Grade Reading Study (EGRS) which was conducted from 2015 to 2017.

The EGRS evaluated whether daily lesson plans, additional Learning and Teaching Support Material (LTSM) and specialist reading coaches can effectively support teachers with the teaching of Setswana as a Home Language. After two years of implementation, the learners who received this support in schools performed 40% better on a range of reading outcomes than their peers who attended schools without the programme. Through funding provided by USAID, Grade 3 and Grade 4 learners are assessed to establish whether the effect of the additional support is still evident one year after the support has ended.

A new cohort of Grade 1 learners are also being tested as these learners will benefit from the extension of this programme. During 2019 and 2020, the programme will be rolled out to 298 schools in the same districts in the North West Province to evaluate whether the same results will be found if the programme is rolled out at a large scale.

Click on the link below for additional information on the Early Grade Reading Study:

<https://www.education.gov.za/Programmes/EarlyGradeReadingStudy.aspx>

Or email Janeli Kotzé ([kotze.j@dbe.gov.za](mailto:kotze.j@dbe.gov.za)) for any inquiries.

## Vaal University of Technology hosts 2018 Kay Motsepe Schools Cup National Netball Championships





The 2018 Kay Motsepe School Cup National Netball Championships kicked off on 24 August 2018, at the Vaal University of Technology in Vanderbijlpark. The Netball Championships are part of the joint school sport programme launched in 2016 between the DBE and the Motsepe Foundation.

The 2018 Championships will see thirty six (36) netball teams compete for the national title from 08:00 to 17:00 daily ending on 26 August 2018, for the opportunity to represent the country at an international netball tournament in Singapore, with the football championships set to take place from 02 to 06 October 2018.

The fixture lists, venues and names of participating schools will be posted on the following websites: the DBE, the Motsepe Foundation, the South African Football Association (SAFA) and South African School Netball (SASN).

The Kay Motsepe Schools Cup comprises of netball and football tournaments. The Cups were initiated by Mr Patrice Motsepe in memory of his mother, and in recognition of the integral role she played in his education.

## Provincial Round-up

### Gauteng Province



MEC for Education, Mr Panyaza Lesufi, is currently hosting public meetings on the Draft Amendments to Regulations relating to the Admission of Learners to public schools across the Province. These consultations will be taking place from 21 to 30 August 2018.

### Limpopo Province



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Learners at BK Matlala Commercial High School in Limpopo now have access to a high-tech Information and Technology Centre, which will drastically change the face of learning and teaching at the institution – exposing them to state-of-the-art facilities to enhance their classroom experience. The centre was recently launched by the Deputy Minister of Communications, Ms Pinky Kekana. The Takalani Foundation and Vodacom were also present at the launch of the IT Centre. Deputy Minister Kekana said that the project has the potential to bring hope to children in impoverished areas. With technology driving every aspect of society, new learning methods have also been introduced to make knowledge easily assessable. Access to digital technologies and the Internet should broaden and enhance economic and educational opportunities, rather than increase social inequalities. According to the 2015 General Household Survey of Statistics South Africa, only 1.6% of the population in the Limpopo Province had Internet access in their homes.

In protest to violence in schools, nine Khayelitsha schools were shut down on 21 August 2018, by illegal protest action, affecting almost 9,000 learners. Although Western Cape MEC, Ms Debbie Schäfer, fully supports calls for safer schools, she condemned protest action during school hours, especially illegal protest action. While over 95% of teachers were present at the schools during these protest actions, feedback from some schools were that principals and teachers felt threatened. MEC Schäfer further condemned the intimidation of teachers by learners or protesting organisations in the strongest terms. School safety is a legitimate concern and the Western Cape Government is trying to improve security measures at schools and to engage the South African Police Service (SAPS) on general safety in high-crime communities.

The WCED reports that they are doing as much as they can to protect schools, but that they simply do not have the legislative mandate, security expertise or budget to guarantee learner safety from armed criminals that are preying on our schools. Schools have safety committees and safety plans, and have employed security (not armed security) where possible. CCTV cameras are used to try and curb the break in's, but these cameras are valuable and criminals often target schools to steal them. Although cameras can be an effective safety mechanism, their effectiveness is not guaranteed.

## Upcoming Events

- 24 – 26 August 2018: The Kay Motsepe Schools Cup National Netball Championships will be taking place at the Vaal University of Technology in Vanderbijlpark, Gauteng Province
- 27 August 2018: Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, will be embarking on a provincial engagement visit to the Cape Teaching and Learning Institute in Cape Town, Western Cape Province to monitor the progress made in improving learning outcomes
- 29 August 2018: The provincial leg of the Spelling Bee Championships will be hosted in the Gauteng Province
- 30 August 2018: The Department will be hosting a seminar on Entrepreneurship Education at the DBE in Pretoria, 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
- 06 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
- 11 September 2018: The DBE will be hosting a Women's Day Commemoration, along with the Gauteng Department of Education, at Constitution Hill in Johannesburg in the Gauteng Province
- 13 September 2018: The provincial leg of the Spelling Bee Championships will be hosted in the KwaZulu-Natal Province
- 13 -14 September 2018: The provincial leg of the Spelling Bee Championships will be hosted in the Limpopo Province
- 19 September 2018: The provincial leg of the Spelling Bee Championships will be hosted in the North West Province
- 20 September 2018: The World Development Report Workshop will be hosted at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 20 September 2018: A Lunchbox Lekgotla seminar will be taking place at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province

- 21 – 22 September 2018: A Mathematics, Science and Technology (MST) Conditional Grant Inter-Provincial meeting will be taking place in the North West Province
- 23 – 28 September 2018: The Kay Motsepe Schools Cup National Indigenous Games Festival will be taking place in Polokwane in the Limpopo Province
- 24 September 2018: National Heritage Day
- 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
- 02 – 06 October 2018: The Kay Motsepe Schools Cup National Football Championships will be taking place in the 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
- 13 October 2018: The South African Council for Educators (SACE) will be hosting a fun walk in Centurion in the Gauteng Province as part of the Teacher Appreciation and Support Programme (TASP)
- 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
- 10 – 14 December 2018: The DBE, in collaboration with the Department of Sport and Recreation South Africa, will jointly host the annual South African Schools National Championships (Summer Games) in Cape Town in the Western Cape 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

**Enquiries:**

**Editor: Mr Elijah Mhlanga**

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

**Tel. No: 012 357 3773**