



# THUTO

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THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



## NEWSLETTER

### We accomplish more when we stand together



Hot off the heels of the launch of the Sanitation Appropriate for Education (SAFE) Initiative, Vodacom hosted a Partners Breakfast on 29 August 2018 to explore possible areas of collaboration to build a better future, with education set to be the biggest beneficiary. Speaking at the event, Basic Education Minister Mrs Angie Motshekga stressed the importance of collaborating “in the possible way” for the benefit of the next generation.



“I must emphasise that any investment in the public schooling system is a wise move, as it impacts directly on the majority of our school-going children. We are grateful for Vodacom’s commitment to being an active corporate citizen,” said Minister Motshekga.

Minister Motshekga also voiced her appreciation to the various corporations who had attended the Partners Breakfast, saying that their presence and willingness to lend a hand contributes meaningfully to the Department’s contention that, “*education is indeed a societal issue.*” As Basic Education Deputy Minister Mr Enver Surty once said, we all have the collective responsibility to honour the legacy of our founding father, Nelson Mandela, and to ensure that every child is educated irrespective of background or circumstances.

### Celebrating women of fortitude moving the education sector forward





"I have been privileged to have walked side by side with Mama Albertina Sisulu. Let us all aspire to leave a living legacy by becoming the women of fortitude Mama Albertina Sisulu, Mme Charlotte Maxeke, Lillian Ngoyi and Sophia De-Bruyn were for their contribution to the women's liberation struggle. Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, paid tribute to the more than 20,000 women who marched to the Union Buildings on 09 August 1956 in protest against the extension of pass laws during a Women's Day event that took place at the Department of Basic Education (DBE) in Pretoria on 24 August 2018. "As we celebrate the centenary of Mama Albertina Sisulu, let us become women united in moving the South African education sector forward."

Mrs Angie Makwetla, Commissioner from the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC), made a powerful presentation on the theme: "Women's Rights are Human Rights". "It is important for each women to live, love and to leave a legacy. We stand on the shoulders of great women. Our liberation was not won effortlessly and we shall not take this freedom and democracy lightly. The struggle continues for women to make a meaningful impact to build strong communities, and strong future South African citizens." Commissioner Makwetla touched on issues of gender-based violence, domestic abuse and violence, and the plight of disadvantaged women.

Mrs Elinor Sisulu, historian, political analyst and author of books such as "Walter and Albertina Sisulu: In Our Lifetime" and "A Different Kind of Holocaust: A Personal Reflection on HIV/AIDS", quoted Charlotte Maxeke, saying: "This work is not for yourselves - kill that spirit of self, and do not live above your people but live with them. If you can rise, bring someone with you." Mrs Sisulu voiced her support for the introduction of History as a compulsory subject in the FET band. "Eventually young people will know little about their country and their history. As a result the youth will lose a sense of patriotism and national unity derived through the study of History. We need to re-write our history from an African perspective."

Minister Motshekga said the Department aims to phase in a new-look curriculum on History over seven years as Government intensifies its efforts to usher in radical economic transformation, adding that the curriculum needs to evolve to respond to current dynamics. "History is not only about history teaching, helping us with cohesion, with nation building and with redress, but also teaching our kids about South Africa to enable us to have an African perspective, we don't have a Eurocentric history in the context of Africa," said Minister Motshekga.

The 2018 Women's Month programme of activities highlighted women's struggle heritage in South Africa, and paid tribute to those whose struggles laid the foundations for women's rights and democracy today. "It is our duty to keep their memory alive. It is our moral responsibility to ensure that their legacy lives on," Minister Motshekga concluded the commemoration.



**ASIDI makes strides during the Albertina Sisulu Centenary Celebrations**





This year's Women's Month celebration was a resounding success, culminating in the official hand-over of Scottsdene Secondary School to the community on 28 August 2018. This is the 24th Accelerated Schools Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (ASIDI) school out of 25 planned for the Western Cape Province to be handed over. Nationally, the ASIDI programme has built 205 state-of-the-art-schools to date. These schools, which bring joy to parents and pride to learners, uplift entire communities. In this case, the community of Kraaifontein was pleased to provide children with a safe haven from gangs and violence.

The learners, teachers, School Governing Body (SGB), community leaders and NGO's all spoke strongly against the scourge of violence that permeates the area. The stakeholders at the hand-over assured their commitment to improve teaching and learning. "We will ensure the collaboration and delivery of a quality learning and teaching environment in the community for our children," said Ms Irshia Peterson, SGB Chairperson. In her message of support she emphasised that women are phenomenal and contribute towards making positive changes happen in families and communities.

Basic Education Deputy Minister, Mr Enver Surty, thanked former principals, Mr Dudley Gabriels, Mr Lucas Hanekom and Mr Karel Cupido. He also made time to speak to the Grade 12 Class of 2018 to encourage them to study hard to ensure that a bright future awaits them.

The Acting Principal, Mr Peter Links, emphasised that the school has the vision to change the community despite the challenges of gangsters, poverty, crime and unemployment.

The fully-furnished 21st Century school will assist in addressing inequality and create an enabling environment for the community to advance, both economically and academically. The school has produced a total of 30 medical doctors, dentists, chartered accountants, lawyers and magistrates.





# Director-General's Provincial Engagements



Espousing the tenets of great leadership, the visionary, innovative, inclusive and trustworthy Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mweli, took to the provinces on the second round of provincial engagements during July 2018.

The focus of the Director-General's second engagement with provinces was widely known, as it was based on the key deliverable for the third quarter: *Evaluating the state of readiness for the end of the year*. These one-day engagements are currently being conducted in all provinces.

In pursuit of advancing the agenda of continual improvement in learning outcomes, the Director-General, in his engagement with provinces, has ably demonstrated the four critical values that govern his leadership style: As a principled leader who is a life-long learner, he is using the opportunities presented to learn from provinces so that best practice can be applauded and replicated across the country. In listening to presentations made by provinces on the state of readiness for the forthcoming examinations, Mr Mweli does not renege on motivating officials to hold themselves and others to a high standard of excellence in contributing to the overall success of the education sector - a hallmark of an ethical leader. In offering guidance on various issues that emanate from the discussions with senior officials in the provinces, an honest appraisal, together with sound advice, recognising the strengths and areas for improvement in the next two months before the start of the examinations, are evidence of the Director-General's ability to engage authentically in open, honest communication; while at the same time offering compassionate and kind listening to needs and challenges. The quality of PEAK leadership, motivation and support that provinces are receiving from the Director-General's engagements, can only instil hope, optimism, possibility and promise that see the Basic Education Sector maintain its upward trajectory in the 2018 examinations!

All these engagements have been featured in the attached brochures on the Director-General's provincial engagements to the various provinces:

<https://www.education.gov.za/Newsroom/NewsletterDGProvincialEngagements2018.aspx>



**DBE welcomes new Chief Financial Officer (Deputy Director-General, Finance and Administration) for Basic Education**





Mr Pat Khunou has been appointed as the Chief Financial Officer (Deputy Director-General, Finance and Administration) for the Department of Basic Education (DBE) from 06 August 2018.

Mr Khunou has more than 30 years' experience in Auditing, Financial and Executive Management, acquired both in the private and public sectors. He has completed a Diploma in Management and Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting degree from the University of the North West, an Executive Management Programme from the University of Limpopo Turfloop Graduate School of Leadership, and a Senior Leadership Development Programme from the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

Mr Khunou served articles with audit firms PriceWaterhouseCoopers as well as Deloitte & Touche. He then worked for Eskom, the South African Reserve Bank, and Transnet. He has also worked as the Finance Executive for the Royal Bafokeng Administration.

Mr Khunou has spent the last 17 years as Chief Financial Officer of the Limpopo Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA). During that period, the Limpopo Department of CoGHSTA obtained 12 unqualified audit outcomes, including two (2) "clean" audit opinions issued by the Office of the Auditor-General.

Based on his experience, Mr Khunou was seconded to the Thabazimbi Local Municipality as Financial Specialist in 2015, and following his assessment and advice, the municipality was placed under Intervention in terms of section 139 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

Mr Khunou was later deployed to the Limpopo Department of Education in 2016 as part of the Provincial Intervention invoked in terms of Section 18 of the Public Finance Management Act. It was during his leadership of the Intervention Team and as Acting CFO that the Limpopo Department of Education's audit outcomes improved from five (5) consecutive disclaimers to a qualified audit opinion for the 2016/17 financial year.

## DBE hosts Entrepreneurship Education Seminar



The DBE hosted an Entrepreneurship Education Seminar in Pretoria on 30 August 2018, to explore various models that can be utilised in strengthening Entrepreneurship Education in public schools. Entrepreneurship Education remains a turning point for the Basic Education Sector to focus on entrepreneurship as a paradigm shift for learners to develop skills for a changing world.

In an attempt to learn from international communities, the DBE invited Professor Johannes Lindner, an entrepreneurship education expert from Austria to share his insights. Professor Lindner is currently piloting the Entrepreneurship Education in ten schools in the Eastern Cape Province focusing on gardening.

In his presentation, Professor Lindner said the project will also be piloted in ten Schools of Specialisation (SOS) in the Gauteng Province. "The plan is to eventually reorganise and open 28 schools as Schools of Specialisation across the five regions of Gauteng to offer five disciplines: Mathematics, Science and Information Communication and Technology (ICT); Engineering; Commerce and Entrepreneurship; Sports, and Arts. The project will cover one school with a Multi-focus as a proof of concept – Curtis Nkondo School of Specialisation; 11 schools focusing on Mathematics, Science and ICT; and 7 schools focusing on Engineering," said Prof Lindner.

"If you want different results, you need to change the system. The structure of a system determines its behaviour. To change the system's behaviour, you need to change the structure," Professor Lindner added.

Speaking during the seminar, Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli said: "Entrepreneurship Education needs to be implemented in line with the Three Stream Model comprising of technical vocational and technical occupational streams. The objectives of the three-stream model are, among other things, to implement a curriculum that will meet the diverse needs of South Africa's youth, to promote skills acquisition and empower creativity".





## Promoting positive discipline in schools



The DBE is promoting *positive discipline in schools* to empower educators in response to learner ill-discipline. *Positive discipline in schools* is a comprehensive approach, which binds teachers to develop mechanisms that will instil learner discipline in the classroom context without resorting to corporal punishment, which is illegal.

“Schools that take this approach encourage positive student behaviour while preventing negative and harmful behaviours,” remarked Mr Paseka Njobe, Director for Safety in Schools.

Mr Njobe further said; “Positive discipline in schools is integrated into the policies and programs of a school and is applied system wide to create a safe learning environment for all learners. “The DBE is finalising the printing of a Positive Behaviour Intervention booklet / guidelines, which will be distributed to all schools in the country. This is an intervention tool which will collectively address the notable cocktail of violent behaviour in schools. The Department is also organising a workshop that will foster the sharing of ideas and tools with education stakeholders, as well as solicit their support on the implementation of Positive Behaviour Intervention and Bullying Prevention in various school communities”.

“School is the centre of a child’ life. Bullying may take place inside and outside school premises and can interfere with educational outcomes. The worst-case scenario is that learners are so worried about bullying that they cannot focus on their studies, or are afraid to come to school,” he added.

The DBE has also implemented the *STOP, WALK, TALK Bullying Prevention Campaign* to mobilise civil society, the private sector, NGOs and government departments to join forces in promoting school safety. School staff, learners, and parents will also be targeted for the Campaign.

“The Campaign will play a crucial role in improving peer relations whilst creating an opportunity for the Department to develop clear rules against bullying behaviour, and further support and protect victims. “The rationale of the Campaign is for schools to be free from intimidation, bias, and hate. Addressing bullying helps to strengthen a positive school culture by promoting a sense of belonging amongst all learners,” explained Mr Njobe.

The DBE has also collaborated with Mindset to create an anti-bullying animated television series for primary schools and a real life high school series to assist in curbing violence in schools. The series will be broadcast on DSTV Channel 319, OVHD Channel 134 and Stars at Channel 309. These series will be utilised in support of the *STOP, WALK, TALK Bullying Prevention Campaign*.

## Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal come out victorious in netball nationals





Gauteng's Helpmekaar Kollege and KwaZulu-Natal's Chief Luthayi High School came out tops in the recent Kay Motsepe South African Schools Netball Championships for Under 15 netball teams. Part of the joint school sport programme launched in 2016 between the Department of Basic Education and the Motsepe Foundation, the Netball Championships were held on 24-26 August 2018 in Vanderbijlpark, Gauteng.

In cognisance of the varying degrees of access to resources which would invariably affect performance, the organisers divided the competition into two categories: the Botho section for well-resourced teams and the Ubuntu section for those teams still in the development phase. Each province was represented by two teams in each category, and for the 36 teams who made it through, getting to the Championships was no easy feat. To stand a chance to represent their respective provinces, teams had to partake in weekly interschool competitions which led to district and provincial finals. The two winning teams have not only bagged bragging rights as the 2018 champions but will also represent South Africa at an international netball tournament to be held later on in the year in Singapore.

According to Ms Di Woolley, president of South African Schools Netball, netball not only helps keep girl children off the streets, but provides a healthy environment where they are equipped with various skills to handle life situations. Parents are encouraged to play their part in motivating their children to take part in school sports; this will in turn make their children's experience at school pleasant and rewarding.



# Provincial Round-up

## Western Cape Province



Western Cape MEC for Education, Ms Debbie Schäfer, donated a year's worth of stationery to Ons Plek Shelter for Girls in the Western Cape Province to assist the learners with their education.

The girls at Ons Plek are there mainly because they have been removed from abusive homes or because they have become street children from either being orphaned or fleeing from abusive homes. Their mission statement is; "To make a substantive improvement in the lives of female street children, and to prevent children at risk from becoming street children". Ons Plek has two residences and currently accommodates 34 girls. According to Director, Ms Pam Jackson, they have succeeded in reducing the number of street children from Philippi from 50 girls every year to one girl in the last 13 years. A total of 70 children now attend these prevention programmes. In recognising the excellent work that Ons Plek is doing, the Western Cape Department of Social Development also provides the shelter with R1.5 million per year in funding.





A KwaZulu-Natal school where two pupils were stabbed and killed will undergo a multitude of changes when government interventions are implemented, MEC for Education, Mr Mthandeni Dlungwana said. Mr Dlungwana visited Masakhaneni High School with a high-level provincial delegation on 27 August 2018, addressing pupils, parents and community stakeholders in KwaMakhutha, south of Durban. Two learners died after they were stabbed over a cellphone by learners from another school. The two were stabbed after allegedly attempting to stop a fight. According to the MEC, there have been several challenges over many months that led to the double tragedy at the school. MEC Dlungwana said another big challenge was that some teachers were prevented from entering the school but full teaching was expected to commence at the school this week. MEC Dlungwana added that the most important priority is to ensure that teaching and learning continues uninterrupted. He added that, together with MEC for Safety Community and Liaison, Mr Mxolisi Kaunda, he would attempt to root out “rough elements in the community”.

## Upcoming Events

- 01 September 2018: The provincial leg of the Spelling Bee Championships will be hosted in the Western Cape Province
- 04 September 2018: Minister Angie Motshekga will be handing over Delft Primary School in the Western Cape Province as part of the Accelerated Schools Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (ASIDI)
- 04 – 05 September 2018: A Workshop with School Improvement Support Co-ordinators and Project Managers will be taking place at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng 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
- 18 – 20 September 2018: A Teacher Development and Curriculum Management Lekgotla will be taking place at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng 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 at Hunter’s Rest, Rustenburg in the North West Province



- 23 – 28 September 2018: The SA Schools 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 – 04 October 2018: The *Mathematics Teaching and Learning Framework for South Africa: Teaching Mathematics for Understanding* will be launched at the Communities of Practice in Mathematics and Science Education summit at the DBE in 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
- 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

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