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THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



NEWSLETTER

Minister Motshekga participates in NCOP Debate on International Literacy Day



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, gave an impassioned speech in Parliament on 04 September 2018 during the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) debate on International Literacy Day. “We must agree as a nation, that basic education is indeed at the heart of building a South African nation for a better and prosperous future,” said Minister Motshekga.

International Literacy Day will be commemorated on 08 September 2018, under the theme: “Literacy in a digital world: Taking measures to leverage the economic potential of the 4th Industrial Revolution”. This gives us an opportunity to reflect on what is being done to promote literacy, especially in relation to the 4th Industrial Revolution.

“We must ensure that more learners reach the basic levels of literacy and numeracy in the Foundation Phase. This is an overriding determinant of how successful learners will be in their 12 years of their long walk to completing Matric; and largely determines whether learners will cope with schooling at all, or run the risk of dropping out and add to the huge numbers of young people not employed, not in education nor in training – the so-called NEETs. We must make early grade learning and teaching our topmost priority,” said Minister Motshekga.

Minister Motshekga reminded members that we stand on the brink of a disruptive technological revolution and trends that will fundamentally alter the way we live, work and relate to one another. “Honourable Members, the advent of the Fourth Industrial Revolution has also led to the expansion of the definition of “Literacy” beyond just reading and writing. Educational institutions are now expected to meet learners’ needs through the integration of 21st Century skills – referred to as the 5Cs. These 5Cs are Critical thinking, Communication, Collaboration, Creativity, and Computational thinking. The 5Cs underpin new forms of Literacy in the digital world,” explained Minister Motshekga.

“The progress we are seeing in the Gauteng and the Western Cape Provinces, vis-à-vis the modernisation of the classroom, with the Eastern Cape and Free State Provinces following suit, is encouraging to say the least. The alignment of content and teaching methodology, to real life situations, in the context of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, are therefore imperative,” added Minister Motshekga.

In closing her contribution to the NCOP debate Minister Motshekga added, “I wish to conclude by saying that we are cautious in the way we are embracing technology, to ensure that any transformation in the education sector, is not dictated to by technology; otherwise it will be like ‘a cart pulling the horse, or the tail wagging the dog’. Technology cannot be an end to itself, but should rather be informed by sound educational needs”.

Click on the below link for the full speech:

<https://www.education.gov.za/Newsroom/MediaReleases/tabid/347/ctl/Details/mid/7002/ItemID/5616/Default.aspx>

Minister Motshekga congratulates NATU on centenary



It is a very important year for the National Teachers Union (NATU) as they marked their centenary at the opening of their National Conference held at the University of Zululand in the KwaZulu-Natal Province on 03 September 2018. They celebrated this auspicious occasion in the packed Bhhekuzulu auditorium under the theme: “Proud Past, Inspired Future and making a difference in the Education System of South Africa”.

Minister Angie Motshekga addressed delegates and started by congratulating them on the historical achievement of reaching 100 years. Minister Motshekga said it was no coincidence that the organisation shares its centenary with the likes of former President Nelson Mandela and stalwart Mama Albertina Sisulu, as the organisation is of that calibre and shares the same values.

The Minister’s message to NATU centred around ensuring that it continues on from its rich heritage as a union that has contributed remarkably to the education sector in the country. Minister Motshekga said the fore-bearers of the organisation organised teachers before it was “fashionable” to do so,

and she encouraged NATU to continue the legacy they have inherited. “What inheritance are you going to leave for the next centenary? And to ensure you keep the organisation intact, in the commissions this is something you must deliberate on and put in place policies that will leave the next generation in good stead,” advised Minister Motshekga.

The Minister also advised that as the organisation reflects on the next 100 years they need to acknowledge the importance of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. “After 100 years we need to change the trajectory of the education system for the next 100 years. There is a lot we have been able to achieve in terms of access and redress, but there are new challenges that we are facing as a sector and we need to grow the partnership that the DBE has with NATU,” said Minister Motshekga, adding “There is no way that Government can do it alone and this is why it is important to acknowledge this current leadership for the role it has played in the sector and the way it has helped guide the sector,” referring to NATU as an enlightened organisation.

Outgoing President of NATU, Mr Siphosethu Lindinkosi Ngcobo, thanked Minister Motshekga for the healthy and productive working relationship they have enjoyed over the years: “It has been good to work with this Minister; she knows education and we respect her for that”. NATU leadership commended the Minister for treating all unions in the sector as equals and taking them all, and their contributions seriously.

Western Cape community takes ownership of Delft South Primary School



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga handed over Delft South Primary School in Delft, outside Cape Town in the Western Cape Province to an elated community on 04 September 2018.

Built at a cost of R75 million through the Department's Accelerated Schools Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (ASIDI), the newly built Delft South Primary School will be an institution of learning for 1,578 of the community's young members. Consisting of 45 classrooms, a computer and science laboratory, a library as well as a nutrition centre, the New-state-of-the-art facilities are providing an environment that enables optimum learning and teaching.

ASIDI will continue to work in support of the Department's SAFE Initiative in partnership with the National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT) and The Nelson Mandela Foundation. Unlike ASIDI, which focuses on schools that had no sanitation whatsoever, the *Sanitation Appropriate For Education (SAFE)* Initiative will focus on schools where sanitation has been found to be inadequate or unsafe.

"I consider it a singular honour and a privilege to be in the province of the Western Cape to officially open yet another state-of-the-art school, namely the Delft South Primary School. Here in the Western Cape alone we have successfully replaced 25 schools that were built from inappropriate materials. We have, through building state-of-the-art school infrastructure, restored the dignity of our learners, communities and the nation at large. It is clear that our school infrastructure programme is beginning to bear fruits for our people," said Minister Motshekga during the event.

Touching on crime and violence in schools, Minister Motshekga said: "We have also established that there is a correlation between gang membership, drug use and crime. None of these can prepare you for a bright future beyond this neighbourhood. It is only education that has the power to break the intergenerational scourge of poverty and spur an individual into a bright future – free of drugs, crime and violence. We as Government are doing everything in our power to assist communities like Delft South to be part of the Better Life narrative. As the DBE, we are no longer only bringing brick and mortar, ASIDI schools are helping to restore dignity and pride to people who had far too long been deprived of facilities that are taken for granted elsewhere".



School Improvement Support: Strengthening data utilisation in crafting performance improvement strategies



Mrs Palesa Tyobeka, Deputy Director-General: Planning and Delivery Oversight, chaired a meeting with School Improvement Support Co-ordinators (SISCOs) and Project Managers - DBE officials based in the provinces - at the DBE in Pretoria from 04 to 05 September 2018.

The SISCOs work with circuit managers to strengthen the utilisation of data in crafting data-driven intervention strategies. The team made presentations on progress, challenges and areas that require attention and intervention in the various provinces. These meetings are a way of tracking support to improve learner performance via Circuit Improvement Plans (CIPs).

The meeting also presented an opportunity to welcome the new Acting Director for School Level Planning, Monitoring, Development and Support: Mr Bheki Ntuli, who joined the Department on 03 September 2018. Mr Ntuli, who was District Director of Umlazi, one of the top performing Districts in the KwaZulu-Natal Province, before joining the Department, has produced quality results and is a seasoned project manager.

“Education targets and outputs have improved, but we need to look at both quality and quantity. The DBE is eager to assist with challenges experienced by Circuits and Districts for learner performance to improve; the role of these meetings is to assist to clear blockages. Community protests, gangsterism and violence are disrupting teaching and learning. We have to minimise the impact of community protest actions on education.

It is also crucial to invest in learner performance in primary schools as language is the proxy for performing at primary level. Literacy at Grade 6 and the Language of Learning and Teaching (LoLT) need to be prioritised, and reading for comprehension and the provision of libraries and reading communities strengthened. Identifying underperforming schools even at primary school level is therefore mandatory, not optional. The data we receive from the Chief Directorate responsible for Examinations should be mined thoroughly to enable SISCOs to provide targeted support to Circuit Managers. It is rich. It provides information not only on overall NSC performance but also on individual subject performance, the management of SBAs and a host of other areas we have discussed before. These affect individual circuits and districts differently and the support therefore has to be customised,” said Mrs Tyobeka.

SISCOs and Project Managers reported that they were using the National Education Evaluation and Development Unit (NEEDU) *Schools that Work II Report* for examples of best practices. They were encouraged to use well-performing schools in the lower quintiles (1-3/4) that were producing excellent results despite difficult circumstances, to encourage learner performance in their various provinces. Often Quintile 5 schools are significantly better resourced and often other schools simply envy them, but believe they cannot perform at their level.

In conclusion Mrs Tyobeka referred to the verification on the Audit of District Resources that will be underway to ensure minimum resource packages for Districts and Circuits to perform optimally. Many Districts and Circuits experience challenges in respect of equipment, transport, software and other resources required to perform their daily tasks. The exercise will commence in the North West Province, which is currently under administration. It is envisaged that the filling of vacant posts and the sample verification will be finalised by May 2019. Mrs Tyobeka further appealed to SISCOs and Project Managers to continue to aide progressed and retained learners through the strengthening of data and e-learning use, and encouraged the use of daily activity plans to measure operational plans and output for the impact to be felt in the classroom.



**Learners across various provinces to celebrate
2018 World School Milk Day**



The DBE, in collaboration with the Milk Producers' Organisation (MPO) and the Consumer Education Project of Milk South Africa (CEP), will commemorate World School Milk Day (WSMD) under the theme: "Dairy Gives You Go" at a World School Milk Day celebration to be held at Kruisfontein Primary School in the Sara Baartman District in the Eastern Cape Province on 26 September 2018.

According to the United Nations' Food Agricultural Organisation (FAO) "World School Milk Day is an *open* day where school communities are free to celebrate in any manner to educate learners". Celebrations can take place at any level - from national to regional to school level. Many participating countries organise celebrations with a common goal to promoting the consumption of milk by learners.

The first World School Milk Day (WSMD) was celebrated in September 2000 and has since become an annual event held in many countries throughout the world. In South Africa the WSMD was celebrated for the first time by the DBE on 28 September 2016, at Mpumelelo Primary School in Leandra in the Mpumalanga Province, and has since become an annual event commemorated in provinces throughout the country.

The DBE, in co-operation with provinces and various partners will, therefore participate in WSMD celebrations held across the provinces to raise awareness and highlight the significance of milk and its importance for growing bodies. It is important that learners should consume foods from the dairy group: milk, maas or yoghurt every day to ensure optimal development. The provincial celebrations will commence at the Windmill Primary School in Vosloorus, Ekurhuleni in the Gauteng Province, and at the Makwatambani Junior Primary School in Vhulaudzi, Vhembe in the Limpopo Province on 07 September 2018.

Milk is part of the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) menu specifications for learner feeding schemes in schools.

Ekangala hosts career Expo for learners

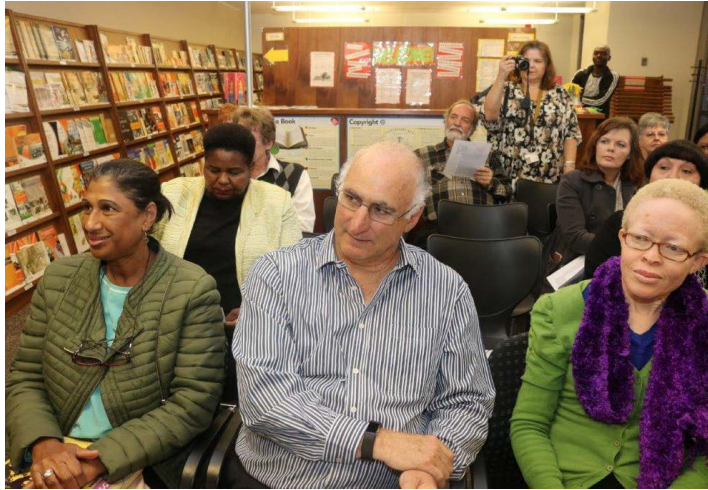


Approximately 1,000 learners in Ekangala, east of Pretoria attended a career expo hosted by the Ekangala South African Police Service on 31 August 2018. The Last Trumpet Ministries building was filled to capacity as Grade 10 and 11 learners from four local high schools gathered to receive information on subject choices and careers to follow. The event was attended by several sponsors, including Sasol, Putco Bus Service and attended by the DBE, the Department of Correctional Services, the Tshwane Metro Police Department and Tshwane Emergency Services.

Organiser of the event, Sergeant Moutlana said they were honoured to have a major company such as Sasol taking an interest in local school learners in terms of guiding their careers, especially encouraging them to take up Mathematics and Science to pursue careers in the engineering, mining and other sciences. The learners were exposed to a vast array of careers from which to choose as they approach the end of their basic schooling. These ranged from careers in teaching, policing, emergency services to professional bus drivers and artisans.

The DBE encourages learners to make informed subject choices depending on what subjects are offered at their school by the completion of Grade 9, with a knowledge of the career path they wish to pursue upon completion of Grade 12. If learners do not select the correct combination of subjects, they could find themselves unable to enter into certain further educational programmes.

Information Resource Centre Review



In wrapping up the 2018 Women's Month celebrations, the DBE Information Resource Centre (IRC) launched a book by colleague and female author, Ms Yolanda Faye Holden on 30 August 2018. The launch was facilitated by IRC Manager, Ms Lydia Molefe.

The book forms part of a larger community service project. This therefore links the book with the Centenary Celebrations of Former President Nelson Mandela and Mama Albertina Sisulu that encourages South Africans to follow in the footsteps of these great icons and to, together, care for our country's children: "There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children" – Nelson Mandela, 8 May 1995.

The book was also used to promote the intercultural exchange and social cohesion amongst DBE employees as the interaction session during the launch was facilitated in English – broadening the uplifting message of the book to all employees.

Die Kat Met Nege Lewens: 'n Sprokie / The Cat With Nine Lives: a Fairy Tale is a daughter's honest account of her father's inspirational search for the grail, as well as the cancer he overcame that strengthened the bond between them. Pain and a variety of challenges shone a light on the life path of this remarkable man to become a beacon of hope to others through his transformation. This is a highly motivational book.

Provincial Round-up

KwaZulu-Natal Province



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PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

The Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Honourable Willies Mchunu, together with the MEC for Education, Mr Mthandeni Dlungwana, officially opened the Mandla Mthethwa School of Excellence in Ndumo, KwaZulu-Natal, on 04 September 2018. The Mandla Mthethwa School of Excellence is a state-of-the-art institution with 40 classrooms, three workshops, three laboratories, a library, a well-equipped media centre, a multi-purpose classroom, a dining hall, a swimming pool and boarding facilities. This institution, built at a cost of R298 million, is the first such institution to be built in a rural area. The Department intends to build state-of-the-art schools throughout the Province, an example being the La Mercy Maths and Science Academy in the Pinetown District which is in its final stages of construction, and the Model Agricultural School which is intended to be built in Ncwadi, Umgungundlovu District Municipality.

KwaZulu-Natal Province



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PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

Extra Mathematics tuition, offered by NGO Awqaf South Africa during the weekend of 09 to 11 August 2018, in conjunction with the Alfred Duma Municipality in the Tugela District of KwaZulu-Natal and the Provincial Department of Education was held at Windsor Secondary School. The initiative has injected hope into nearly 300 Grade 12 learners from eight surrounding schools. The K-Way programme presented by Mr Mohammed Khota with the help of Ms Zohra Essack, was aimed at lifting the learners into the pass category by boosting their Mathematics skills. Co-ordinator Mr Soojat Khan, described the programme as a great, heart-warming success. According to Mr Khan, there will be a follow-up programme during October 2018 also at Windsor Secondary School after the trial examinations. He said that together with the parties concerned, he was working on a long term vision of bringing teachers on board with the K-Way methodology via videos, and exploring the possibility of also focusing on Grade 11 learners as well.

Western Cape Province



BETTER TOGETHER.

National Senior Certificate (NSC) candidates across the Western Cape Province commenced with the writing of their 2018 NSC trial examinations on 03 September 2018. The trial examinations form an essential part of the preparation of matric learners ahead of the 2018 NSC Examinations as they provide learners with an indication of which areas they need to concentrate on. Once completed, District Officials will work with their schools to examine the results and determine which schools need additional support. It is important for learners to remain focused to reach their full potential and achieve the best results possible. It is important for all candidates to make use of the resources available to them until the start of the 2018 NSC Examinations. The Western Cape Education Department (WCED) is committed to supporting all NSC candidates in every possible way to pass matric and to achieve excellent results. To help candidates to pass their matric, the Department has prepared a booklet: "Tips for Success", to provide advice on preparing for the examinations, planning study time and what to cover in each subject. Candidates should also make use of the E-Portal resources on the WCED website to access resources that may assist them. There are also a wide range of matric revision videos on the WCED YouTube channel.

Northern Cape Province



The Northern Cape Department of Education firmly believes that education is a societal matter and partners are encouraged to deliver on the needs of learners. For this reason, the Department continues to engage private and business sectors to improve the quality of education in schools. An Education Business Breakfast which provided an opportunity for the Department to engage the private sector on key investment opportunities that exist in the education sector was recently hosted in Upington. The Department has committed to engaging with the different sectors on a regular basis and to schedule District specific programmes.

Upcoming Events

- 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
- 11 September 2018: DBE will be collaborating with various partners in celebration of World School Milk Day to promote healthy lifestyles at the Tswellang Special School in Bloemfontein in the Free State Province
- 13 September 2018: DBE will be collaborating with various partners in celebration of World School Milk Day to promote healthy lifestyles at the Sombongangani Primary School in Pietermaritzburg in the KwaZulu-Natal 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
- 14 September 2018: DBE will be collaborating with various partners in celebration of World School Milk Day to promote healthy lifestyles at the Siyeta Primary School in Elukwatini in the Mpumalanga Province
- 15 September 2018: Minister Motshekga will be hosting the Second Chance Matric Programme Roadshow at Govan Mbeki Multipurpose Centre in Port Elizabeth in the Eastern Cape 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
- 20 September 2018: DBE will be collaborating with various partners in celebration of World School Milk Day to promote healthy lifestyles at the Wakkerstroom West Primary School in Bonnievale in the Western Cape Province
- 21 September 2018: Minister Motshekga will be hosting the Second Chance Matric Programme Roadshow at Ivory Park in the 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
- 25 September 2018: DBE will be collaborating with various partners in celebration of World School Milk Day to promote healthy lifestyles at the Vaal Reefs Primary School in Klerksdorp in the North West 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
- 26 September 2018: DBE will be collaborating with various partners in celebration of World School Milk Day to promote healthy lifestyles at the Rondebult Primary School in Germiston in the Gauteng Province
- 27 September 2018: DBE will be collaborating with various partners in celebration of World School Milk Day to promote healthy lifestyles at the Tau di a Rora Primary School in Jan Kempdorp in the Northern Cape Province
- 28 September 2018: DBE will be collaborating with various partners in celebration of World School Milk Day to promote healthy lifestyles at the Tau-Kwena Primary School in Ga Matlala Kordon Village in the Limpopo 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 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
- 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 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

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