



# THUTO

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THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



## NEWSLETTER

# Learners salute Mama Albertina Sisulu's legacy of Ubuntu



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, joined by Ms Elinor Sisulu, a representative of the Sisulu family, hosted a Women's Day celebration in honour of Mama Albertina Sisulu under the theme: "Albertina Sisulu, a woman of fortitude: Be the legacy in moving South Africa forward". The event, which took place at Constitution Hill in Johannesburg on 11 September 2018, was organised to give learners an opportunity to draw on lessons from struggle icons such as Albertina Sisulu who dedicated her life to the liberation of South Africa.

Ms Elinor Sisulu is the author of the biography, "Walter and Albertina Sisulu: In our Lifetime". Ms Sisulu took to the podium to share the struggle journey Albertina Sisulu undertook as one of South Africa's freedom fighters. "My mother-in-law was a kind and strong woman who always stood for peace and social justice. She always embraced humanity and human dignity. Albertina Sisulu was known for her caring spirit amongst people who interacted with her personally. She also loved children and contributed to the strengthening of Early Childhood Development (ECD) in South Africa".

Learners selected from five schools in Johannesburg and surrounding areas participated in the celebration. As part of the interactive sessions, Minister Motshekga highlighted the significance of celebrating the Centenary of Mama Albertina Sisulu across the country. Learners also shared their commitment in emulating Albertina Sisulu's legacy to build a united South Africa. Nomhle Ngwevu from Fons Luminis Secondary School in Johannesburg, said: "This event has been fruitful because it enhanced me to understand the history of South Africa better. I salute Mama Albertina Sisulu for being a role model for many women in this country; her legacy will live on for many years to come".

In her address, Minister Motshekga said that the Department of Basic Education (DBE) continues to celebrate the Centenary for learners to understand their role in society. She added: "You are our national asset; you have to take care of yourself and abstain from social ills such as drugs, alcohol and substance abuse." The Minister further called upon learners to internalise the preamble of South Africa to work together in building a non-racial, non-sexist and a united South Africa.

Voluntary food handlers from the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) and ECD practitioners were also given an opportunity to honour the struggle icon. Minister Motshekga acknowledged the work done by them in several school communities and added: "Your contribution to education makes a significant difference in this country; please keep up the good work".

The DBE continues to rekindle the legacy of Mama Albertina Sisulu through a series of learner interactive sessions aimed at promoting social cohesion, humanity and social justice in the schooling system.





# Deputy Minister Enver Surty awards winner of the Liliesleaf History Essay Competition



Basic Education Deputy Minister, Mr Enver Surty, awarded Tamsyn Zeta Smith, a learner from the National School of the Arts Sacred Heart College, and winner of the Liliesleaf History Essay Competition with a cash prize of R10,000 for herself, and R10,000 for her school. The Competition took place on 06 September 2018 at Liliesleaf farm in Rivonia, Gauteng Province.

Since 2016, Liliesleaf and the National Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences have been hosting an annual schools educational outreach programme. The programme has brought over 1,200 high school learners from 14 schools around Gauteng to Liliesleaf. This year, the programme was extended to include an essay competition on the topic: "The further back you can look, the further forward you are likely to see". Learners from participating schools had to use the words by Former British Prime Minister, Sir Winston Churchill, to unpack the importance of History within a South African context.

Deputy Minister Surty, who also formed part of the adjudication panel, applauded all participants on the eloquent manner in which they delivered their essays saying that, "the topic was not easy and learners had to use 1,200 words to not only put forward the history and context, but also advanced the argument to persuade the era of the time".

Other panel members included historian and author Ms Luli Callinicos, the Deputy Head of Lebone II Mr Thebe Morake and Dr Ian Macqueen from the University of Pretoria.

In conclusion, Deputy Minister Surty highlighted a vital life lesson: "As we build on the future, we must ensure an inclusive society that recognises humanity, people's dignity and the achievement of equality, a non-racial and non-sexist environment and a united South Africa, because these values strengthen the context of the history of our struggle".



## Nutrition Centre handed over to Tebogo Primary School, winner of the NSNP Best Schools and District Awards, in partnership with Tiger Brands Foundation





During March 2014, the DBE and the Tiger Brands Foundation hosted the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) Best Schools and District Awards to honour top schools in the effective implementation of the NSNP in South Africa. As the winner of the NSNP Best Schools Awards in the North West Province, Tebogo Primary School received a fully equipped kitchen and eating utensils to the value of R450,000, as well as a three year breakfast programme sponsored by the Tiger Brands Foundation. The then MEC for Education, Mrs Wendy Matsemela who was in attendance, further announced that the North West Department of Education will provide top-up funds towards the building of a dining hall.

It was such joy to see the fruits of many years of labour when a state-of-the-art Nutrition Centre was officially handed over to the school on 07 September 2018. It is indeed heart-warming witnessing learners being served meals with pride and in dignity under healthy and hygienic conditions.

The NSNP Best Schools and District Awards were initiated in 2009 to recognise excellence, innovation and the dedication of districts and schools in the successful implementation of the Programme. Having outperformed thousands of schools in the country, Tebogo Primary School set the bar high for many other schools to work more diligently in improving the standard of meals being served.

The NSNP was initiated to provide nutritious meals to learners to improve learning outcomes. It was also intended to address issues of obesity through the promotion of healthy eating habits in schools. Currently, the NSNP provides a nutritious meal to more than 9 million learners daily.

Tiger Brands Foundation Operations Manager, Mr Karl Muller, said the partnership between the DBE and the Tiger Brands Foundation has been very fruitful as it helps learners to concentrate in class. “It’s in our hands to fight poverty and the key solution in achieving this is through joining hands in partnerships”.

Director for the NSNP, Ms Neo Sediti, acknowledged the contribution made by the Tiger Brands Foundation in strengthening NSNP in schools, saying that the support will go a long way in improving quality education in the country. Ms Sediti also expressed her gratitude for the selfless service provided by School Management Teams, educators, volunteer food handlers and School Governing Bodies in ensuring that learners receive healthy meals daily.



## Repositioning the curriculum towards Vision 2030 and beyond





A Teacher Development and Curriculum Management (TDCM) Lekgotla will be taking place at the DBE from 18 to 20 September 2018. The forum will deliberate on ways to reposition and enhance the curriculum and to remap the priorities so as to support the sector towards the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG4) to “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”. *Agenda 2063*, the *National Development Plan* (NDP) and the Sector Plan will also provide guidance for the deliberations.

The objectives of the TDCM Lekgotla are to develop a twelve-year roadmap for the school curriculum to 2030 and to deliberate on pertinent and contemporary issues such as the decolonising of the curriculum and social justice to be mainstreamed into the curriculum. The priorities of the Basic Education Sector will also be remapped to position it in the trajectory that enables it to respond to the demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills. There is a need for language across the curriculum and reading as a core competency to be foregrounded to enable learners across the sector to access the broader curriculum and acquire foundational skills that would empower them to participate meaningfully in mainstream society. The Lekgotla aims to provide a safe space and basis for engagement and collective action with strategic partners regarding the deployment of innovation as a mechanism to strengthen the curriculum and develop teacher competencies to 2030 and beyond.

## Provincial eliminations for the National Schools Moot Court Competition in full swing



The provincial eliminations for the 8th National Schools Moot Court Competition commenced at Bloemfontein High Court in the Free State Province and at the Kimberley High Court in Northern Cape Province on 08 September 2018. The next provincial rounds are scheduled to take place at the Walter Sisulu University in Mthata in the Eastern Cape Province on 14 September 2018.

The DBE, in partnership with the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DoJ), the University of Pretoria, the Foundation for Human Rights, the Law Society of South Africa and Cliff Dekker Hofmeyr Inc., will again be hosting the annual National Schools Moot Court Competition for high schools from 04 to 07 October 2018.

This year's hypothetical problem statement to be argued centres around section 27 of the School Code of Conduct on dress code requirements. The 2018 Schools Moot Court Competition Problem Statement that will be argued centres around section 27 of the *School Code of Conduct* on dress code requirements.

Each school must select a team of two learners, preferably one male and one female; however this is only a preference, not a requirement. Team members must write one essay for the Applicant and one essay for the Respondent. In total, teams must write two essays. The top 10 teams that wrote the best essays in each province are invited to participate in the Provincial Oral Rounds. These Provincial Oral Rounds are organised by the Provincial Education Departments and the DoJ. The judges from the Provincial Oral Rounds will select the best four teams from each province. Those teams will advance to the National Oral Round in Pretoria and Johannesburg hosted from 04 to 07 October 2018. The Grand Final Oral Round will be hosted at the Constitutional Court on 07 October 2018.

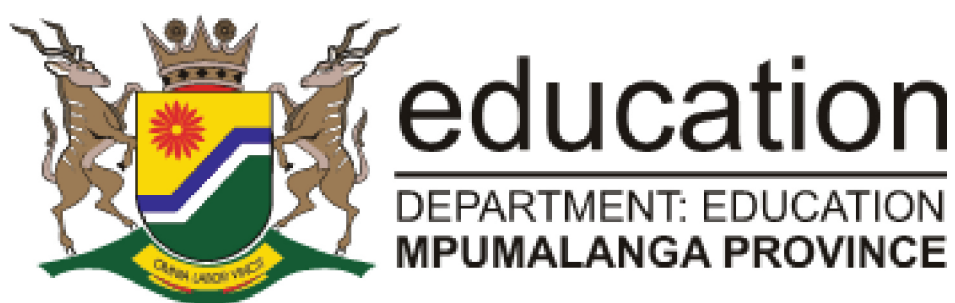
The annual South African National Schools Moot Court Competition, established in 2011, aims at creating greater consciousness and understanding in South African schools and communities regarding the *Constitution* and its values.





# Provincial Round-up

## Mpumalanga Province



The Mpumalanga Provincial Department of Education encourages youth in the Province to apply for financial assistance for the 2019 academic year through the Provincial Ephraim Mogale Bursary Scheme before 30 October 2018. Application forms have already been circulated to all secondary schools and education District Offices. Prospective students are required to submit outstanding Grade 12 results and university results for those already in various learning institutions and be within a family socio-income of less than R350,000 per annum. Learners/students with disabilities and with albinism who meet the requirements for admission in universities, automatically qualify for bursaries for fields of study of their choice. For international bursaries, applicants will be subjected to medical and psychometric tests and will also be subjected to compulsory interviews. The Department is currently funding 281 international students, 1,351 employees and 1,989 local university students through its Ephraim Mogale Bursary Scheme.

## Eastern Cape Province



The Eastern Cape Department of Education (ECDoE), along with sister departments and various stakeholders, recently launched a School Safety Patrollers Programme at the Helenvale Multipurpose Centre in the Nelson Mandela Education District in an attempt to ensure safety at schools. The launch also promoted social cohesion and enrichment programmes, and further declared schools as crime and drug free zones, in support of the *National School Safety Framework*. The Programme will contribute to school functionality. "Violence in and around schools is one of the major contributing factors to non-enrolment, school dropout and non-completion. The performance of learners who remain at school despite experiences of, or the fear of violence, and who are able to achieve within the classroom to perform academically, is also likely to be compromised. Simply put, the quality of education is negatively affected, thus we are implementing this Programme," said Head of Department, Mr Temba Kojana.

## Western Cape



The Western Cape Education Department (WCED) has an admission system in place called the School Admissions Management Information (SAMI), that can determine whether learners have been captured twice or more on school admission lists. The SAMI admission data indicates that 8,101 places are currently being blocked by parents who have not confirmed which schools they will accept for placement in 2019. These are cases in which learners have been accepted at more than one school. Therefore, their names appear on multiple admission lists, thus blocking up potential placements of learners on long waiting lists. Parents are encouraged to apply to more than one school and, in some cases, learners have been accepted at up to four different schools. The main blockages are at Grade 8 level, where over 5,000 learners are registered as being accepted at more than one school. The WCED requests parents to ensure that they inform each of these schools whether they accept or decline admission.

## Upcoming Events



- 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
- 15 September 2018: The provincial eliminations for the 8<sup>th</sup> National Schools Moot Court Competition will be taking place at the Durban Magistrates Court in the KwaZulu-Natal Province
- 15 September 2018: The provincial eliminations for the 8<sup>th</sup> National Schools Moot Court Competition will be taking place at the Johannesburg Magistrates Court in the Gauteng Province
- 15 September 2018: The provincial eliminations for the 8<sup>th</sup> National Schools Moot Court Competition will be taking place at the Potchefstroom Magistrates Court in the North West Province
- 16 – 19 September 2018: The official opening of the South African Principals Association (SAPA) Conference will take place held at Sun City
- 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 – 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
- 22 September 2018: Minister Motshekga to embark on a Second Chance Matric Support Programme Roadshow at the Oracle Ponelepele Secondary School, Ivory Park in the Gauteng 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
- 25 – 28 September 2018: A Whole School Evaluation Lekgotla will be taking place at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 26 September 2018: The World School Milk Day (WSMD) national celebration will be taking place at Kruisfontein 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” at the Capital Hotel, Menlyn, Pretoria in the Gauteng Province
- 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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