



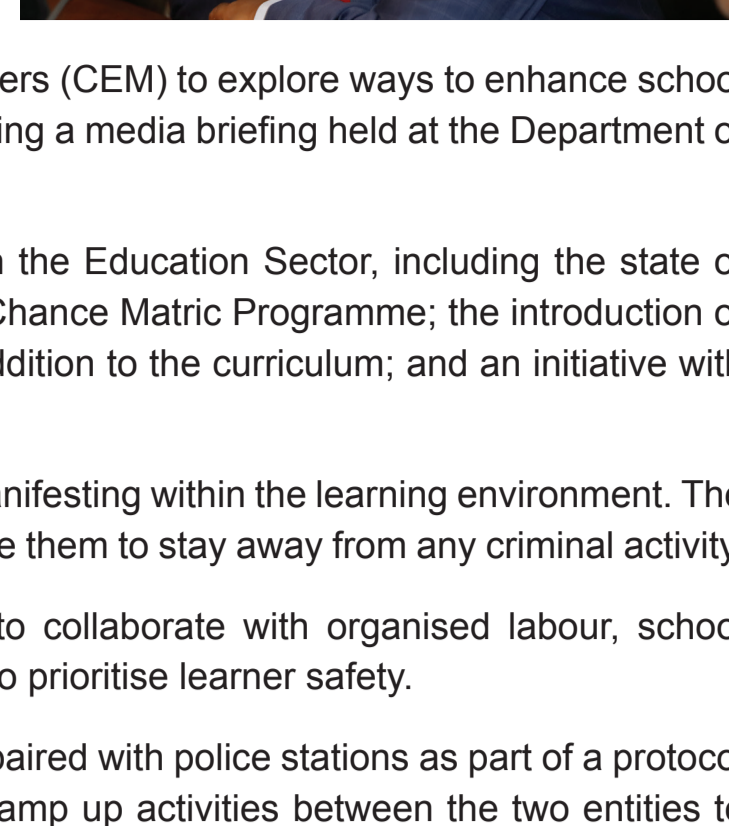
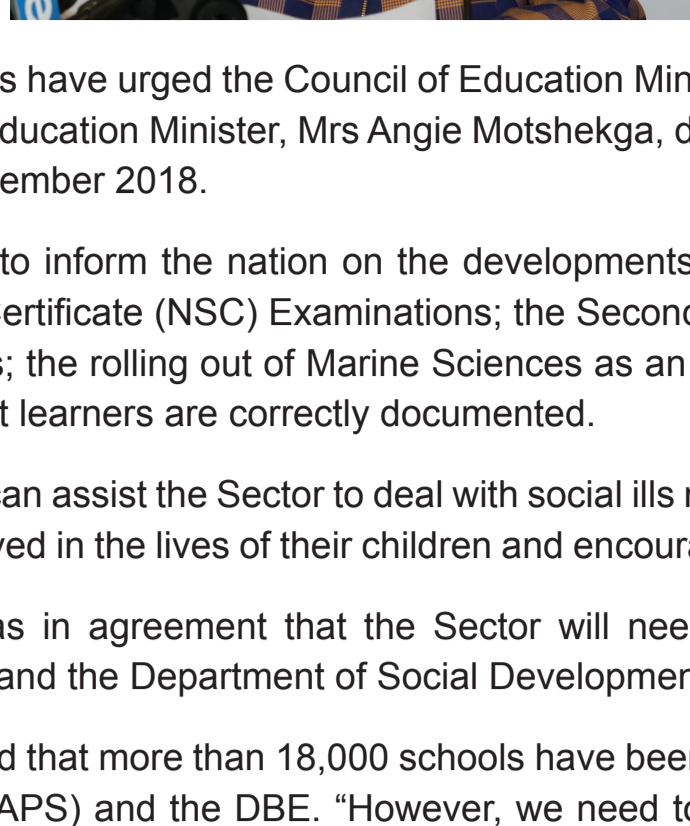
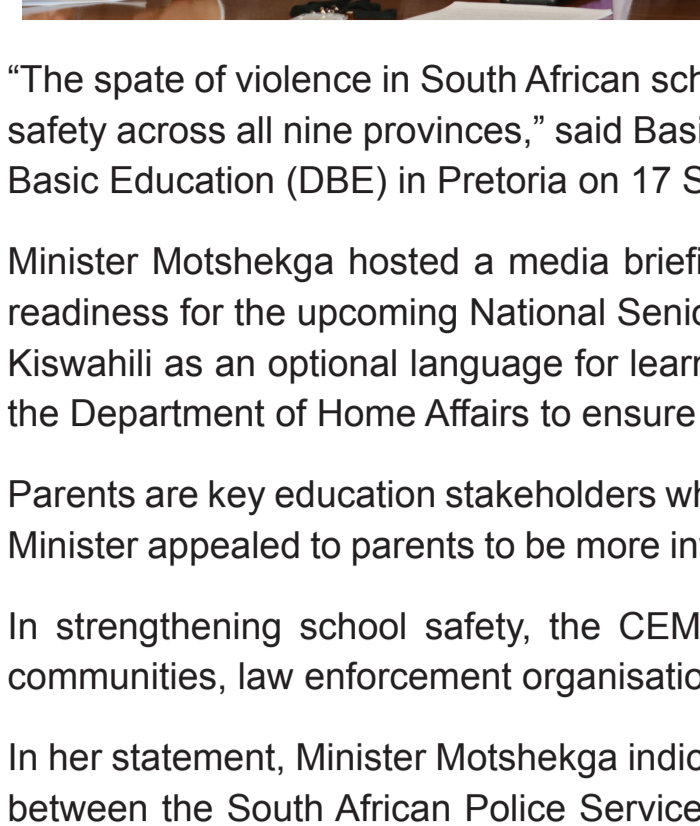
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THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



NEWSLETTER

Minister Motshekga briefs media on developments in the basic education sector



"The spate of violence in South African schools have urged the Council of Education Ministers (CEM) to explore ways to enhance school safety across all nine provinces," said Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, during a media briefing held at the Department of Basic Education (DBE) in Pretoria on 17 September 2018.

Minister Motshekga hosted a media briefing to inform the nation on the developments in the Education Sector, including the state of readiness for the upcoming National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examinations; the Second Chance Matric Programme; the introduction of Kiswahili as an optional language for learners; the rolling out of Marine Sciences as an addition to the curriculum; and an initiative with the Department of Home Affairs to ensure that learners are correctly documented.

Parents are key education stakeholders who can assist the Sector to deal with social ills manifesting within the learning environment. The Minister appealed to parents to be more involved in the lives of their children and encourage them to stay away from any criminal activity.

In strengthening school safety, the CEM was in agreement that the Sector will need to collaborate with organised labour, school communities, law enforcement organisations and the Department of Social Development to prioritise learner safety.

In her statement, Minister Motshekga indicated that more than 18,000 schools have been paired with police stations as part of a protocol between the South African Police Service (SAPS) and the DBE. "However, we need to ramp up activities between the two entities to ensure greater success. Schools operate within communities, and are often a reflection of the community and the social ills that are found within these communities. We need support from all education partners," said Minister Motshekga.

In reaction to the recent abductions, which took place in the Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal Provinces, Minister Motshekga said: "Parents need to be vigilant when dropping off and fetching learners to and from schools. It was reported that there had been three confirmed abductions in the Western Cape Province - all of whom were found and returned to their families. Another unfortunate abduction resulted in the death of a learner. There have also been an additional 16 reports of attempted abductions in the Western Cape Province. In addition to the above, there was also the highly publicised and tragic incident regarding the abduction and murder of Miguel Low in the KwaZulu-Natal Province. The DBE will be hosting a symposium with SAPS and parents to explore ways to work together to ensure learner safety".

Click on the below link for the full statement:

<https://www.education.gov.za/Newsroom/MediaReleases/tabid/347/ctt/Details/mid/7002/ItemID/5900/Default.aspx>

Reporting on examination readiness for the upcoming NSC examinations



2018 National Senior Certificate Examinations 22 October - 28 November 2018

Minister Motshekga announced that the DBE is up to speed in ensuring that all Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) are fully prepared for the 2018 National Senior Certificate Examinations (NSC). On 15 October 2018, more than 787,281 learners will be sitting for the NSC examinations at 8,000 examination centres across the country.

The examinations will commence with the writing of the Computer Applications Technology Paper 1 and end on Wednesday, 28 November 2018. A total of 630,492 full time and 153,597 part time candidates have registered to write the 2018 NSC Examinations.

Director for National Assessment and Public Examinations, Ms Priscilla Ogunbanjo, said: "All question papers have been set and approved by Umalusi and are ready for administration as per the scheduled time table. All learners have been registered on the Integrated Examinations Computer System (IECS). The moderation of School Based Assessment (SBA) is currently underway across PEDs; the DBE will conduct the final quality assurance of SBA from 30 September to 08 October 2018, as per the management plan. General preparations are on track and the DBE, together with PEDs are currently busy with conducting the final verification audit of examination centres and storage points. Only storage points which meet the required security standards will be approved for storage of question papers".

"Invigilators and moderators have been appointed and the training of these officials is currently underway. All invigilators will be trained across all PEDs utilising a standardised invigilator training manual which was developed in 2017 at national level. The DBE will also train all PED officials involved in supporting the management of irregularities in examinations and the SBA. PEDs are also currently finalising aspects relating to the appointment of markers. The DBE is also conducting a verification audit on the recommended markers to ensure that all markers appointed meet the criteria stipulated in the Personnel Administrative Measures (PAM)," explained Ms Ogunbanjo.

The examination system in South Africa has, over the years developed a high degree of precision and its administrative systems and processes are internationally comparable with resilient quality assurance measures, and therefore the DBE is confident that once again together with its PEDs, it will administer a credible 2018 NSC Examination.

Providing learners with a second chance at success



The Supplementary Examinations will come to an end during 2019. Instead, the Department has made a second examination opportunity available for all learners, especially those who may have failed subjects in the 2018 NSC Examinations, and also those who require an opportunity for a second chance to complete their Matric, and gain entrance to the world of opportunities that the NSC offers.

Minister Motshekga has also embarked on a series of Second Chance Matric Programme (SCMP) Roadshows across the various provinces. On 15 September 2018, the Minister visited the Govan Mbeki Multipurpose Centre in Port Elizabeth in the Eastern Cape Province, and on 22 September 2018, she will be visiting the Oracle Ponelelope Secondary School in Ivory Park in the Gauteng Province to share this second chance at success with young adults.

"We have made the changes to the Supplementary Examinations because an average of 40,000 learners enrol for supplementary examinations annually; however, they do not necessarily write these examinations. This results in wasteful expenditure," remarked Minister Motshekga. The Minister stated that by writing the SCMP examinations during June, learners will be provided with sufficient time for revision. "The time between the release of the examination results at the beginning of the year and the Supplementary Examinations in February/March is too short a time to make a real impact in terms of bettering results, and learners feel unprepared, and as a result do not sit for the examination."

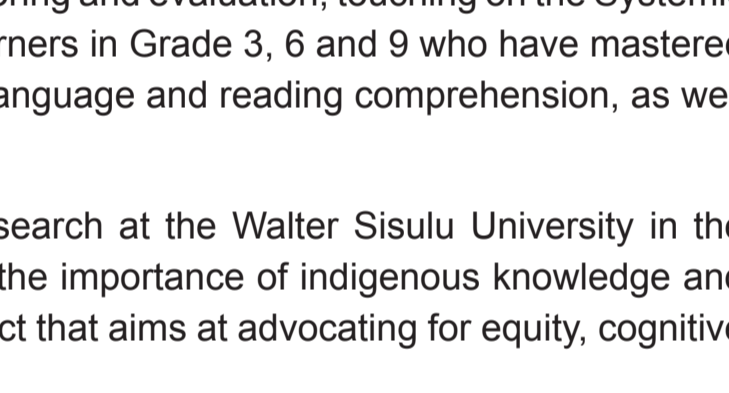
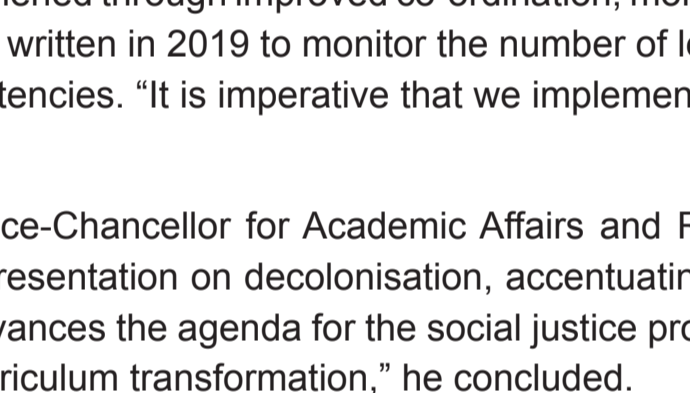
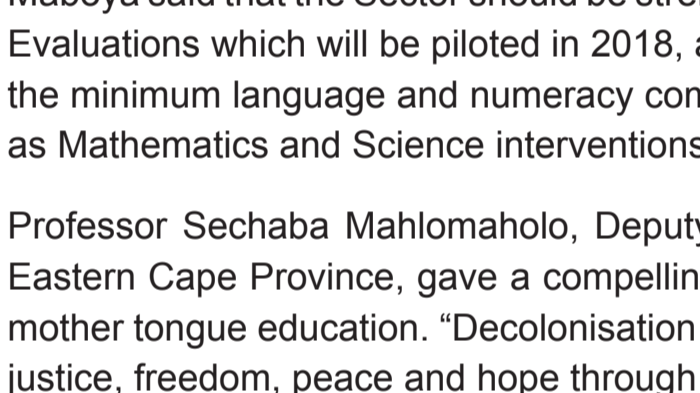
Exciting developments in the curriculum space



The CEM also approved the listing of Kiswahili as an optional second additional language that will be offered to learners. There are currently 15 non-official languages listed in the NSC as optional subjects. These include the likes of French, German and Mandarin. "Kiswahili is an indigenous language with lexical and linguistic similarities to many African languages spoken on the continent. It is the third most spoken language (more than 100 million) in Africa after English and Arabic. It is one of the official languages of the African Union (AU), we are also confident the teaching of Kiswahili in South African schools will help to promote social cohesion with our fellow Africans. The implementation of this language will start in 2020," Minister Motshekga said.

The CEM also approved Marine Science as another addition to the curriculum. "The Department has been working since 2017 with the Two Oceans Aquarium to develop a Maritime Sciences curriculum. The intention of this curriculum is to expand the offering of Maritime studies' subjects. This draft curriculum was submitted to Umalusi for evaluation in March 2018. The Two Oceans Aquarium has developed a number of Maritime related programmes including Marine Biology, Oceanography, Environmental Sustainability and Human Interactions with the Ocean," said Minister Motshekga.

Africa Education Indaba held in the Limpopo Province



The DBE and the Tim Tebella Foundation (TTF), jointly hosted the Africa Education Indaba (AEI) at the Ranch in Polokwane in the Limpopo Province from 13 to 14 September 2018.

The main purpose of the AEI was to provide stakeholders with an opportunity to share ideas and experiences that relate to the schooling environment. The Indaba explored effective strategies to improve educational performance in provinces such as Limpopo and the Eastern Cape, which have been identified to be experiencing noticeable challenges in recent times, with respect to the overall matric pass rate. The intention is to improve educational performance nationally. "As every big initiative commences with small beginnings, the AEI has chosen the Limpopo and the Eastern Cape Provinces to assist with the improvement of academic performance," said founder and patron of TTF, Dr Tim Tebella during his welcoming remarks.

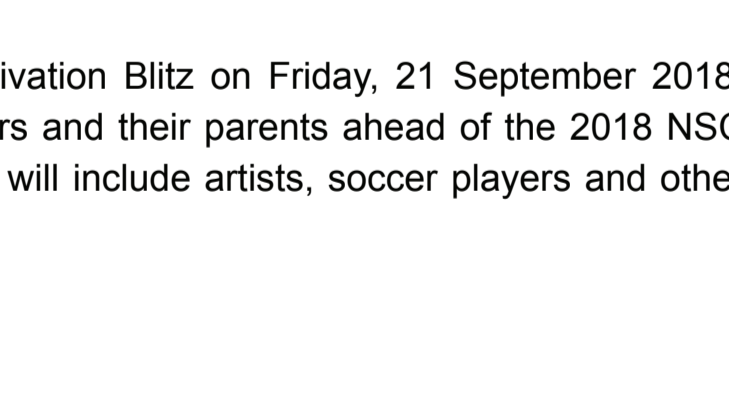
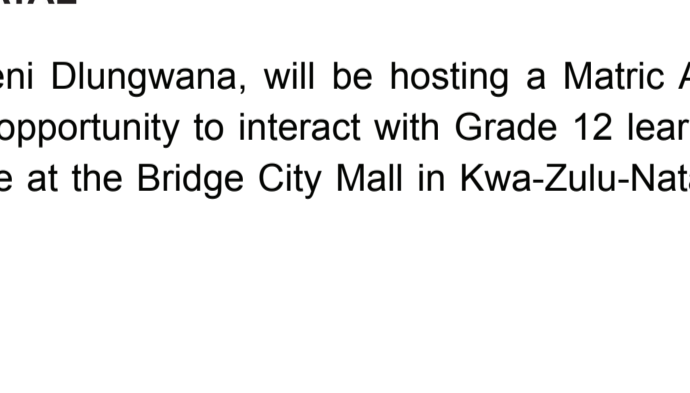
Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, welcomed the Indaba initiative, saying, "In my view it is a practical demonstration of how we, as South African citizens, can respond to the call made by President Ramaphosa to raise a hand and say, thuma mina."

Amongst the speakers was the Chairperson of the SABC Board, Mr Bongumusa Makhathini, who outlined the role of the public broadcaster in promoting educational excellence. "The SABC is keen to educate, entertain and empower citizens because an empowered citizen is an educated citizen. The SABC's education content, covering a wide range of educational issues, contributes to a rich cultural shared South African identity," said Mr Makhathini.

Free State Education MEC, Tate Makgoe, shared an important comment: "We need to put additional emphasis on the improvement of progress in primary schools, technical high schools and stem subjects; more importantly we need to improve our relationship with key stakeholders." The MEC concluded by reiterating the Free State Department of Education's (FSDoE) slogan: "Raising the bar, closing the gaps and supporting learners in all grades".

"I trust that this initiative will build meaningful relationships and find amicable ways of working together. Our youth will surely benefit from these and similar initiatives and interventions," concluded Minister Motshekga.

Repositioning the curriculum for 21st Century education and skills development



"In our assessment of the curriculum we have to ask ourselves what kind of a learner do we want to see emerge from the Education Sector? We need to reposition the Sector to provide skills for a changing world, mostly skills that do not yet exist," said Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzani Mwel, at the Teacher Development and Curriculum Management (TDCM) Lekgotla took place at the DBE in Pretoria from 18 to 20 September 2018, under the theme: "Repositioning the curriculum towards Vision 2030 and beyond".

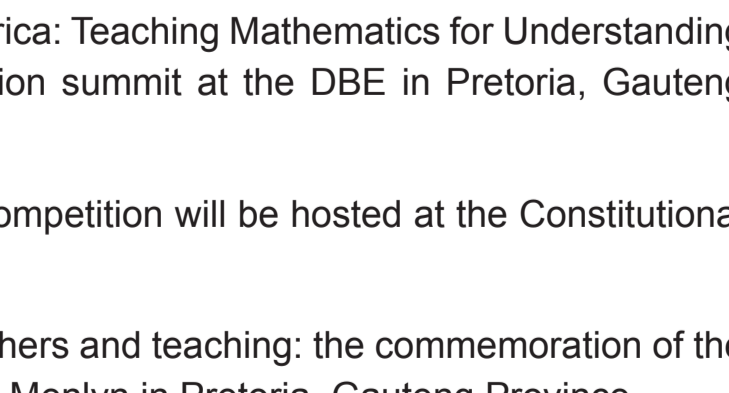
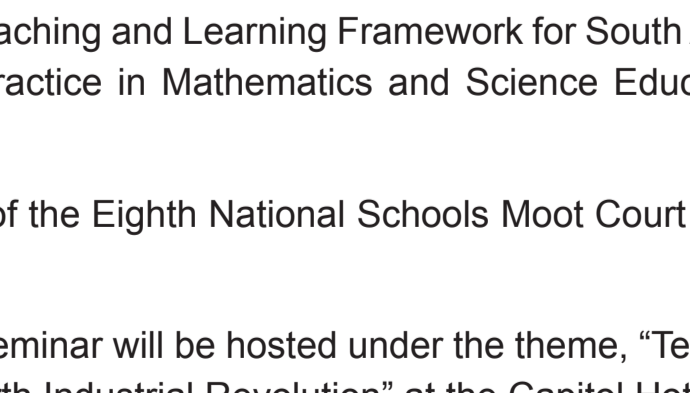
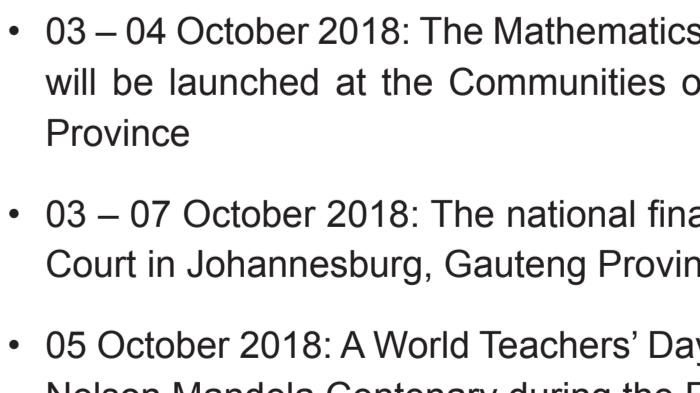
In his opening address, Acting Director-General for Curriculum Policy, Research and Co-ordination, Ms Carol Nuga-Delive, mentioned that the curriculum vision to 2030 is aligned to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG4) to: "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all". She made reference to the Three Stream Model, emphasising that a new view of learning, which rejects divisions between academic and applied theory, practice, knowledge and skills, is necessary.

Deputy Director-General for Curriculum Policy, Support and Monitoring, Dr Mamiki Maboya, reminded the delegates that the principal objective for quality curriculum is to develop the values, knowledge and skills of learners to lead meaningful and productive lives. Dr Maboya said that the Sector should be strengthened through improved co-ordination, monitoring and evaluation, touching on the Systemic Evaluations which will be piloted in 2018, and written in 2019 to monitor the number of learners in Grade 3, 6 and 9 who have mastered the minimum language and numeracy competencies. "It is imperative that we implement language and reading comprehension, as well as Mathematics and Science interventions".

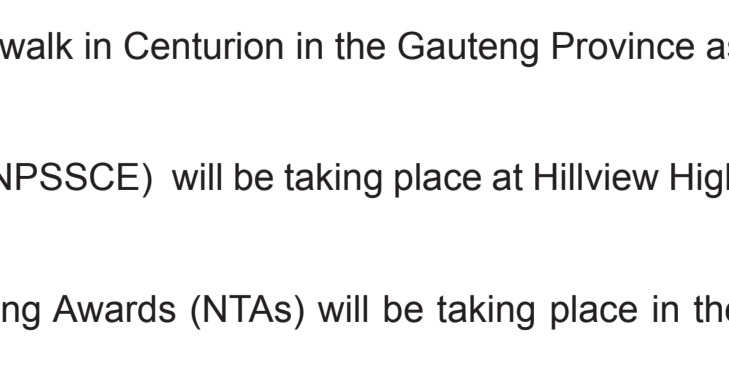
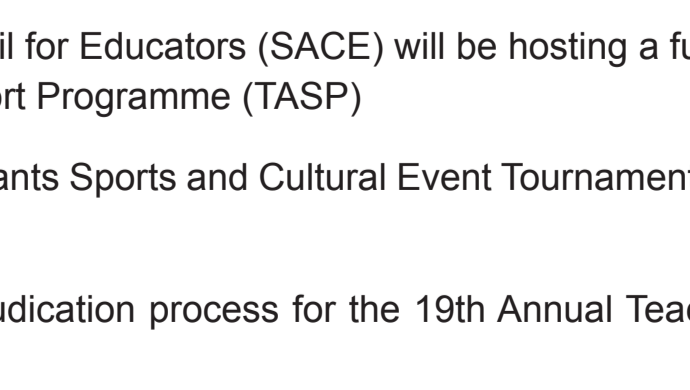
Professor Sechaba Mahlomo, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Research at the Walter Sisulu University in the Eastern Cape Province, gave a compelling presentation on decolonisation, accentuating the importance of indigenous knowledge and mother tongue education. "Decolonisation advances the agenda for the social justice project that aims at advocating for equity, cognitive justice, freedom, peace and hope through curriculum transformation," he concluded.

Additional presentations were made by various role players in the Sector before the Lekgotla was divided into five commissions to discuss: interventions during the early years of learning; the strengthening of teacher competencies; improved monitoring and evaluation; reading and language competency; as well as improving literacy and numeracy and Mathematics and Science participation.

The Lekgotla succeeded in its aim by drafting a structured early year's intervention programme for learners at risk and a framework of minimum skills, values, attitudes and competencies for teachers. In addition, a framework for decolonising the curriculum and a national model for effective monitoring and support has also been placed on the table. A measurable Curriculum Roadmap will be presented to the Heads of Education Departments Meeting (HEDCOM) for deliberation.



DBE and PEDs strengthen collaboration to address the artisan shortage in the country



The DBE, in partnership with the Provincial Education Departments (PEDs), continue to make headway in terms of increasing Mathematics, Science and Technology (MST) intakes in the Education Sector to target learners in Quintile 1 to 3 schools in South Africa.

The DBE's MST team and provincial officials responsible for the effective implementation of the MST Conditional Grant, converged at the Hunters Rest Protea Hotel in Rustenburg in the North West Province from 20 to 21 September 2018, to fast-track provincial progress in line with the promotion of MST participation and throughput rate in the country.

The two-day meeting was used as a platform for provinces to share a common goal in terms of the National Development Plan (NDP) and the Action Plan 2019: Towards Schooling 2030, which emphasises the importance of accelerating MST participation and the success rate in the education sector through the effective implementation of the MST Conditional Grant. The MST Conditional Grant responds to the MST targets set in Chapter 9 of the NDP and Goals 1 to 9, 16 and 20 of the Action Plan 2019: Towards Schooling 2030.

Project Manager for the MST Conditional Grant, Ms Espeth Khembo, said the meeting was critical because it enabled the MST team to discuss matters related to the Grant's performance in compliance with the conditions of the MST Grant Framework. "A meeting of this nature allows us to share best practice on the implementation of the Grant. Hopefully our engagement with the provinces will improve performance of the Grant through collaboration with key stakeholders in government and non-governmental organisations, as well as professional bodies such as the South African Mathematics Foundation (SAMF) and the South African Agency for Science and Technology (SAASTA)," said Khembo.

"The Grant will supply resources to 1,000 Mathematics, Science and Technology laboratories, as well as Technical School Workshops in line with the Curriculum Assessment Policy Statements (CAPS). It is also aimed at improving teacher competency through training in subject content and methodology in MST," explained Ms Khembo.

The meeting concluded with a visit to Fields College, one of the MST technical schools, where the North West Province showcased best practice in the implementation of the Grant.

Provincial Round-up

Mpumalanga Province

The Mpumalanga Province has issued a Pertussis warning. Pertussis, commonly known as Whooping cough and caused by a germ known as Bordetella pertussis, primarily affects children too young to have completed their full course of vaccinations, as well as teenagers and adults whose immunity systems have failed. Its prevalence has increased from 13 cases reported last month to 29 cases to date in toddlers and children. Pertussis is a highly contagious illness, a vaccine-preventable disease and spreads when a person with Pertussis sneezes, coughs or breathes. Schools in the Mpumalanga Province have been advised to be on high alert should learners experience or develop cold like symptoms including coughs and runny noses, to immediately consult the nearest health facility to get medical help. The Department of Health is working effortlessly to contain the spread of the disease.

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Education, Mthandeni Dlungwana, will be hosting a Matric Activation Blitz on Friday, 21 September 2018. The Activation Blitz will present him with an opportunity to interact with Grade 12 learners and their parents ahead of the 2018 NSC Examinations. The Blitz, which will take place at the Bridge City Mall in Kwa-Zulu-Natal, will include artists, soccer players and other public figures.

The Western Cape Education Department (WCED) will support schools that ensure that the relevant disciplinary procedures are followed when dealing with violence and substance abuse. The WCED's Policy on Learner Discipline and School Management assists schools on how to conduct this process. The WCED District Offices are also equipped to provide advice on how to manage these disciplinary procedures. In recent weeks there have been several incidents in some provinces of teachers being attacked physically by learners. The WCED is staffing a values-driven department and will not tolerate or condone any form of violence or aggression against any teacher, principal or staff member. The WCED has therefore identified "The Year of Values-Driven Learning" as a theme for 2018. This theme focuses on six values: caring, competence, accountability, integrity, innovation and responsiveness. Schools have been asked to identify 12 values that symbolise and characterise the values that they want to espouse, and then showcase these values in various ways. Parents must also be made aware that if their children do choose to behave inappropriately towards a teacher, there will be negative consequences.

Upcoming Events

- 22 September 2018: Minister Motshekga will be hosting the Second Chance Matric Programme Roadshow at the Oracle Ponelelope Secondary School, 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
- 22 September 2018: Minister Motshekga to embark on a Second Chance Matric Support Programme at Ivory Park, North Hall, Tembisa 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 – 26 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
- 27 September 2018: A Rural Education Assistants Project (REAP) will be launched in the KwaZulu-Natal 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 Capitol Hotel, Menlyn in Pretoria, 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, Bohlabele 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 November 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
- 03 January 2019: Minister Motshekga will be announcing the results of the National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examinations in the Gauteng Province
- 16 February 2019: The 19th Annual Teaching Awards (NTAs) will 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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