



THUTO

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THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



NEWSLETTER

Community of Practice Forum deliberates practical solutions for Mathematics and Science



“The annual Community of Practice (CoP) Forum on Mathematics and Science is an integrated approach to improve Mathematics and Science teaching and learning in schools. The training and development of teachers is required to transform classroom practice to improve overall results. Mathematics should be taught with a balanced approach – using sustainable research and practical solutions,” said Deputy Director-General for Curriculum Policy, Support and Monitoring, Dr Mamiki Maboya, during the CoP Forum.

The Forum took place at the DBE from 03 to 04 October 2018 under the theme: “Using Communities of Practice to Sustain the Professional Development of Mathematics and Science Subject Teachers”.

With basic Numeracy and Mathematics skills forming the foundation for inclusive economy, Mathematics and Science researchers and policy makers gathered to present the findings by the Mathematics Education Chairs Initiative (MECI) on the “Public Communication Learning Brief” on 03 October 2018. Lessons from the “Learning Brief” will be used to identify, design, and implement innovative solutions for improving Mathematics education in South Africa. Initiated and led by the FirstRand Foundation (FRF), in partnership with the National Research Foundation (NRF), the MECI is in its ninth year of implementation.

The MECI responds to the *National Development Plan's* (NDP's) call for partnerships to address social challenges in the Education Sector. University of Cape Town's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng, explained: “When we started the programme, we had a long-term vision to strengthen Mathematics education by fostering collaboration between Government, the private sector, universities and other civil society organisations. We tapped into the intellectual resources at various universities, the social capital of the private sector and civil society to support Government in tackling the crisis of Mathematics education in the country”.

A panel discussion, led by researchers from various universities, Professors Hamsa Venkatakrishnan, Mellony Graven, Jill Adler and Cyril Julie, provided interesting views on the professional development of teachers. Dr Nick Taylor from Jet Education Services, emphasised the importance of Communities of Practice and peer learning commissions saying, “By appointing qualified people, the opportunity is created for passionate teachers to uplift other teachers for the whole school to improve its performance”.

The annual CoP Forum is jointly organised by the DBE, the FirstRand Foundation (FRF), the National Research Foundation (NRF), the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Human Resource Development Council (HRDC).



8th Annual National Schools Moot Court Competition underway



The 2018 National Schools Moot Court Competition kicked off on 03 October 2018 as the nation's top young critical thinkers and future litigators take their cases to court in the 2018 Moot Court National Finals.

Each province will be represented by a delegation of eight learners during the National Finals with prelims having taken place on 04 October 2018 and semi-finals being hosted on 05 October 2018. The final round of the Competition will culminate at the Constitutional Court at Constitution Hill in Johannesburg on 07 October 2018.

The annual 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, and offers a dialogic platform for young people to experiment with the actual application of the country's Constitutional Law.

The Moot Court Competition comprises of four stages which include registration, essay workshops, essay writing and Provincial and National Finals. As part of preparing learners adequately for the 8th National Schools Moot Competition, workshops have been conducted in collaboration with the University of Pretoria, private law firms, the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, the South African Legal Aid Board and Foundations for Human Rights across all provinces.

Register online using the Funza Lushaka Information Management System



On 05 October 2018, the new and improved online registration system for the Funza Lushaka Bursary Programme went live. The Programme is managed through the Funza Lushaka Information Management System (FLIMS), which is hosted and maintained by the State Information Technology Agency (SITA).

"We are excited about the modernised system. We have experienced many challenges in fully achieving on the high ambitions we have for the administration of the Bursary Programme. In moving into a new era, we are confident that the system will allow for an improved ecosystem and management of the Bursary Programme," said Funza Lushaka Bursary Programme Director, Mr Gerrit Coetzee.

The modernised system will allow the seamless registration of candidates whilst allowing for improved selection, monitoring and placement of candidates and beneficiaries. It will further strengthen the identification of defaulting bursars and reinforce the monitoring of the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) distribution process.



The Department established the Programme in 2007 to attract motivated and academically gifted youth into the teaching profession to address the challenges of teacher supply and demand in the sector. Bursaries are made available to enable eligible students to complete a teaching qualification in an area of national priority. Recipients of these bursaries will be required to teach at a public school for the same number of years that they had received the bursary for.

"Current bursars are encouraged to re-apply on the Funza Lushaka website between 05 October and 11 November 2018, whilst prospective candidates should apply from 05 October 2018 until 11 January 2019," Coetzee concluded.

Promoting heritage education in schools



After gruelling months of provincial workshops and eliminations at district and provincial levels, nine schools represented by a group of four learners from each province, were identified to attend the 2018 Heritage Education Schools Outreach Programme (HESOP). This week-long heritage camp took place in the Free State Province at the Golden Gate Highlands National Park from 01 to 05 October 2018.

For the past ten years, the National Heritage Council of South Africa (NHC), together with its partners, has been inviting learners from different schools to take part in the camp which highlights our heritage and practically exposes learners to their identity as South Africans.

This year's programme celebrated the centenaries of South Africa's struggle heroes, former President Nelson Mandela and Mama Albertina Sisulu. The learners also had an opportunity to reflect on how African indigenous languages could be preserved, as well as the importance of supporting calls for South African Heritage sites to be declared as World Heritage Sites. The partners of HESOP are: the DBE, the NHC,

South African National Parks and Brand South Africa.

HESOP empowers youth to understand their historical heritage by interacting with people across geographic, socio-economic and language barriers. The heritage competition comprises of exciting excursions, research and presentations on topics aligned to liberation heritage.

The 2018 HESOP winners are:

- First Place: George Mbulaheni Secondary School, Limpopo Province
- Second Place: Selelekela Secondary School, Free State Province
- Third Place: Nsikayethu High School, KwaZulu-Natal Province
- Fourth Place: John Ramsey High School, Western Cape Province



Celebrating our struggle heroes



“The vision of Chief Albert Luthuli was of a united nation where we celebrate our identity irrespective of gender, race or sexual orientation.” These were the words of Basic Education Deputy Minister, Mr Enver Surty, during the finals of the iNkosi Albert Luthuli Oral History Competition that was held at Freedom Park in Pretoria on 29 September 2018. Organised by the DBE in collaboration with the iNkosi Albert Luthuli Foundation, Freedom Park and the Nelson Mandela Foundation, the 13th edition of the Competition celebrated the centenaries of South Africa’s struggle heroes, former President Nelson Mandela and Mama Albertina Sisulu.

Provincial elimination rounds, during which learners from Grade 8 to 11 submitted research papers and made oral presentations of their work, were held throughout the year, and resulted in 135 semi-finalists vying for the six top spots. After two days of deliberations, the adjudicators announced the following learners as the winners for 2018: Anoxolo Khonkhwana from the Western Cape Province won the Young Historian award; Zinzi Bonga from the Eastern Cape Province won the Best Poet award and Emile Hedricks from the Northern Cape Province won the Best Letter Writing award. The Best Storyteller award went to a learner from the KwaZulu-Natal Province for a submission titled, “In beauty of a good person’s head”, a story based on true events. The winner in the Educator Category was Ms Leonie Vitti from the Northern Cape Province.

Freedom Park’s CEO, Ms Jane Mofamadi, commended parents and teachers for supporting learners in their journey on expanding their knowledge on heritage and culture. “It is important that we acknowledge figures that played a significant role in the struggle against Apartheid,” said Mr Tsematse Tsematse from the Luthuli Museum whilst delivering a message of support on behalf of the museum’s council.

In his closing remarks Mr Surty expressed his pride at the learners for having not merely participated in this programme for the purpose of winning, but for also being “a genuine inspiration” to their communities and schools. “We should not only celebrate our struggle heroes, but also strive to understand the values and attitudes of these giants,” concluded Mr Surty.



Top teams score during the 2018 Kay Motsepe Schools Football Cup

Top football teams from South African schools met during challenging rounds at the Tshwane University of Technology from 02 to 05 October 2018, to compete for the Kay Motsepe National Finals Cup. During last year’s finals, Gauteng’s Rosina Sedibane Sports School walked away with the trophy. These games are part of a ten year partnership between the DBE and the Motsepe Foundation, sponsored by Sanlam and the South African Football Association (SAFA). This partnership plays a crucial role in promoting social cohesion and nurturing sporting talents whilst encouraging learners to lead healthy lifestyles.

The games which form part of the Department’s Enrichment programmes whilst supporting the curriculum, further contribute towards the holistic development of learners through sports. Through sports, learners acquire a number of life skills which include time management and organisational skills.

The first place winner of the Schools Football Cup will receive a prize to the value of R1 million and a trophy, the second place winner will receive a prize to the value of R600,000 and the third place winner will receive a prize to the value of R400,000. These prizes will assist in improving the resources of the winning schools.

Mr Bongani Zondi from the DBE’s School Enrichment and Sport in Education Directorate said that, “partnerships like the one we have with the Motsepe Foundation contribute immensely to supporting Government with its various initiatives as resources are limited within the Sector. He also emphasised the importance of reviewing programmes annually to continually improve on deliverables”.

The games will culminate on 05 October 2018 when this year’s victors will be crowned as the champions.



Provincial Round-up

Gauteng Province



GAUTENG PROVINCE
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Tomorrow's young scientists gathered at the Birchwood Hotel and Conference Centre in Boksburg on 02 October 2018, to participate in the 38th annual Eskom Expo for Young Scientists International Science Fair (ISF). The Expo, which will conclude on 05 October 2018, provides a platform for learners to increase their knowledge of science, and also hopes to broaden their scientific horizons and encourage them to pursue careers in the sciences. Approximately 500 future engineers, chemists, physicists, mathematicians and innovators are competing at the largest school-level science fair for a chance to take home prizes worth more than R8,5 million. The learners have earned their spot in the fair after beating the competition at a series of regional finals, for a chance to showcase their innovative projects to a panel of judges and industry experts. Among the prizes up for grabs are a scholarship to study in Germany sponsored by Siemens, as well as 16 full bursaries from Eskom to study anywhere in South Africa. "The fair is a great launch pad for motivated youngsters keen to explore these fields and change not only their circumstances, but their environments for the better," said Executive Director for the Eskom Expo, Mr Parthy Chetty. The Expo is endorsed by the Departments of Public Enterprises, Science and Technology and Basic Education, and has also received recognition from the Presidency.

Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, will be attending the World Teacher's Day celebrations organised by the Eastern Cape Department of Education on 05 October 2018. The celebrations will take place at the Boardwalk Sun Casino, Nelson Mandela Education District in Port Elizabeth. The celebrations commenced on 04 October 2018 with a memorial lecture in honour of the late education activist, Mr Matthew Goniwe. Goniwe, an educationist and an activist for social transformation, has been selected by the Department owing to his contribution towards making education a central pillar for knowledge development, dedication, inspiration, kindness, and encouraging excellence in teaching.

Upcoming Events

- 06 October 2018: The National Spelling Bee Championships will be hosted at the ZK Matthews Auditorium, Unisa in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 06 October 2018: Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, will be embarking on a Spring Camp visit to the Limpopo Province
- 07 October 2018: Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, will be embarking on a Spring Camp visit to the Gauteng Province
- 09 – 10 October 2018: A Terrapinn E-Learning Exhibition will be taking place at the Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, in the 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 and Obesity Week (NNOW) national celebrations will be hosted at Seganyane Primary School in Acornhoek, Bohlabela District, Mpumalanga Province
- 12 October 2018: A School Safety Summit will be taking place at the DBE in Pretoria in the Gauteng Province
- 13 October 2018: Minister Motshekga to embark on a Second Chance Matric Support Programme Roadshow to Bolobedu in the Limpopo 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)
- 15 October 2018: National Handwashing Day will be commemorated
- 17 October 2018: The National Nutrition and Obesity Week (NNOW) national celebrations will be hosted at Blaauwskop Intermediate School in Kanoneiland, Upington in the Northern Cape Province
- 20 October 2018: Minister Motshekga to embark on a Second Chance Matric Support Programme Roadshow at Harding Sports Grounds, Harding, in the KwaZulu-Natal Province
- 20 October 2018: The National Public Servants Sports and Cultural Event Tournament (NPSSCE) will be taking place at Hillview High School, Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 26 October 2018: Minister Motshekga to embark on a Second Chance Matric Support Programme Roadshow to George in the Western Cape 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
- 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) 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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