

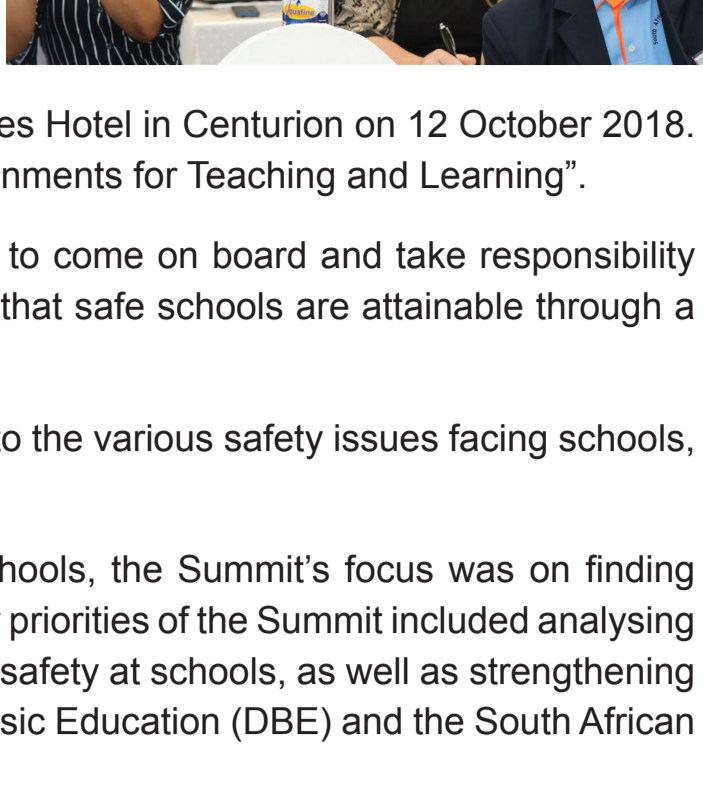
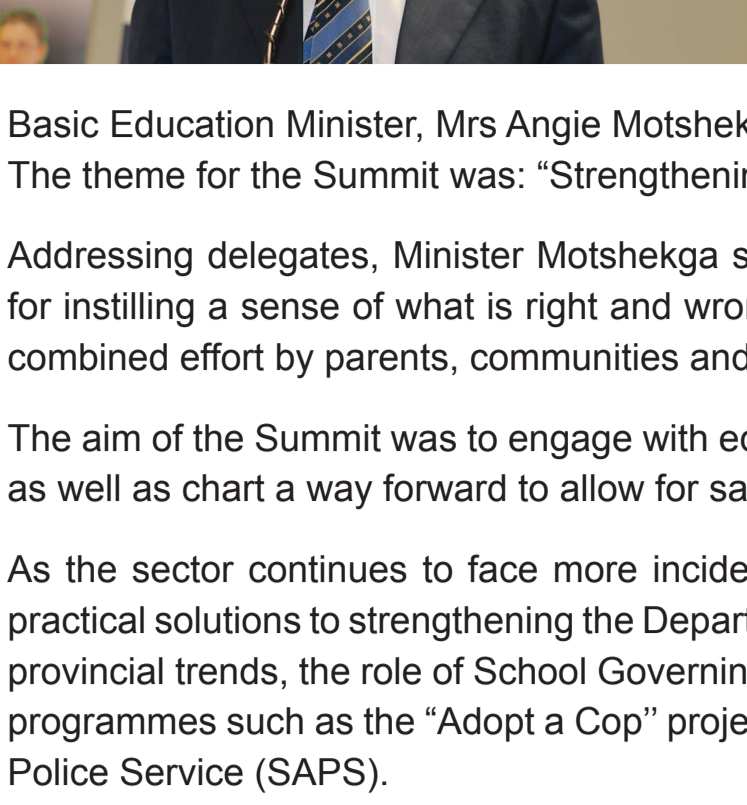
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THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



NEWSLETTER

Basic Education Minister convenes School Safety Summit



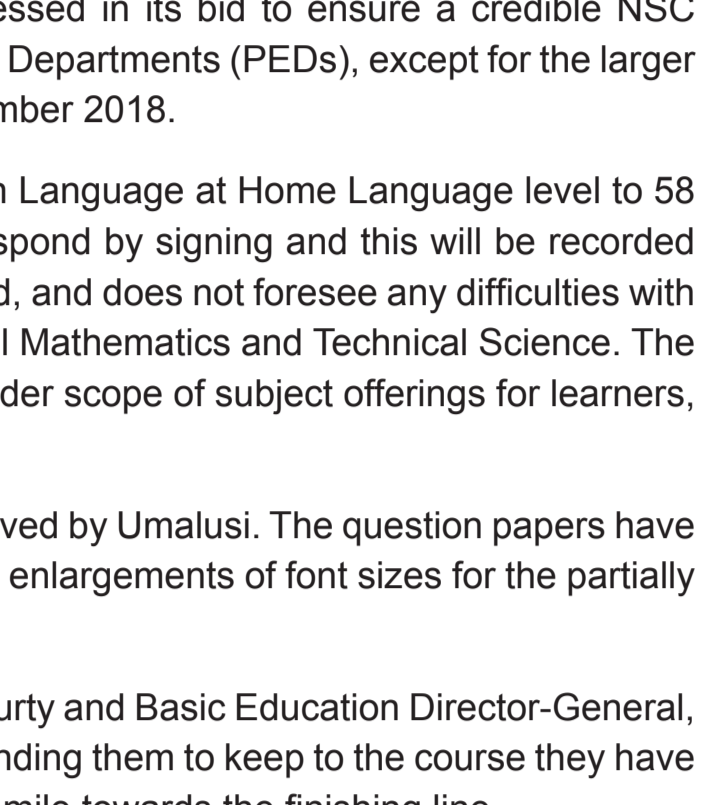
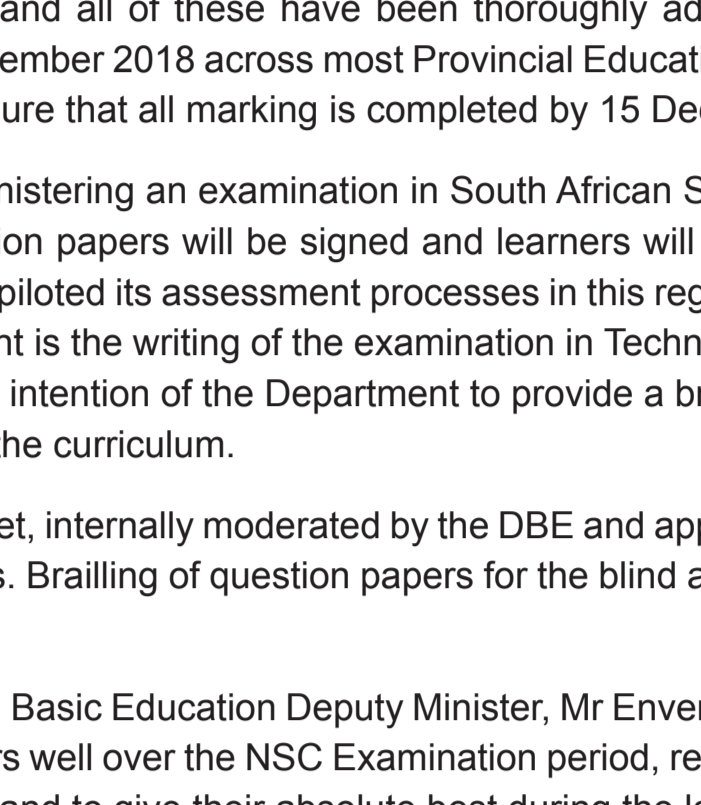
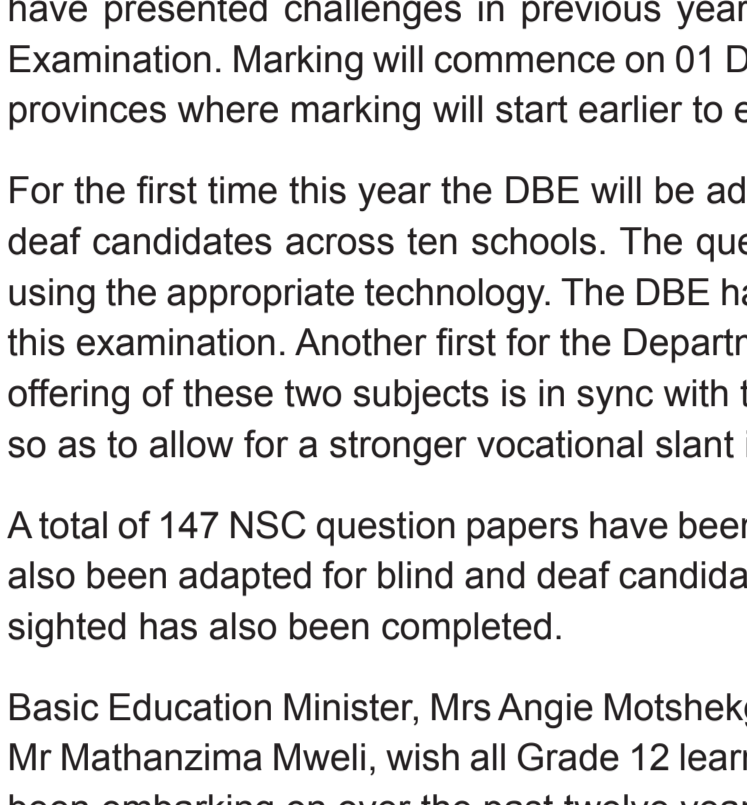
Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshhega, led a School Safety Summit at the St Georges Hotel in Centurion on 12 October 2018. The theme for the Summit was: "Strengthening Safety Nets and Ensuring Safe School Environments for Teaching and Learning".

Addressing delegates, Minister Motshhega said: "We are making an appeal to communities to come on board and take responsibility for instilling a sense of what is right and wrong in their children". The Minister further added that safe schools are attainable through a combined effort by parents, communities and government authorities.

The aim of the Summit was to engage with education stakeholders to find common solutions to the various safety issues facing schools, as well as chart a way forward to allow for safer environments in all our schools.

As the sector continues to face more incidents of violent conduct within the confines of schools, the Summit's focus was on finding practical solutions to strengthening the Department's efforts in improving safety at schools. Key priorities of the Summit included analysing provincial trends, the role of School Governing Bodies (SGBs) in promoting and championing safety at schools, as well as strengthening programmes such as the "Adopt a Cop" project which is championed by the Department of Basic Education (DBE) and the South African Police Service (SAPS).

The DBE takes issues about school safety very seriously and has put in place various policies and measures to ensure the safety of all learners, educators and relevant stakeholders in schools. The Department reiterates that there is no place for violence, drug abuse, sexual harassment and other criminal acts in schools as they pose a serious barrier to learning. An important focus is the inculcation of values and ethics of a just and caring society within schools and communities. The Department views these ills in a serious light because they carry the potential to deprive our learners of their inherent constitutional rights to life, education, equality and dignity.



Countdown to 2018 National Senior Certificate Examinations



Practical components of the National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examinations commenced today with practical examinations in Computer Examinations Technology (CAT) being administered to 37,340 candidates. This will be followed by the practical examinations for Information Technology that will be administered to 4,170 candidates on 16 October 2018. The 2018 NSC Examinations will get off to a full start on 22 October 2018, with the writing of examinations in the Non-Official Languages.

The 2018 NSC Examinations comprise a total of 796,542 candidates writing the examination across 6,888 examination centres throughout the country. The number of full time candidates is 629,141 and the number of part time candidates is 167,401. The examination extends over five and a half weeks and will conclude on 28 November 2018.

The DBE has embarked on an intensive review of all its systems and processes and has taken cognisance of the limitations that may have presented challenges in previous years, and all of these have been thoroughly addressed in its bid to ensure a credible NSC Examination. Marking will commence on 01 December 2018 across most Provincial Education Departments (PEDs), except for the larger provinces where marking will start earlier to ensure that all marking is completed by 15 December 2018.

For the first time this year the DBE will be administering an examination in South African Sign Language at Home Language level to 58 deaf candidates across ten schools. The question papers will be signed and learners will respond by signing and this will be recorded using the appropriate technology. The DBE has piloted its assessment processes in this regard, and does not foresee any difficulties with this examination. Another first for the Department is the writing of the examination in Technical Mathematics and Technical Science. The offering of these two subjects is in sync with the intention of the Department to provide a broader scope of subject offerings for learners, so as to allow for a stronger vocational slant in the curriculum.

A total of 147 NSC question papers have been set, internally moderated by the DBE and approved by Umalusi. The question papers have also been adapted for blind and deaf candidates. Braille of question papers for the blind and enlargements of font sizes for the partially sighted has also been completed.

Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshhega, Basic Education Deputy Minister, Mr Enver Surty and Basic Education Director-General, Mr Mathanzima Mwel, wish all Grade 12 learners well over the NSC Examination period, reminding them to keep to the course they have been embarking on over the past twelve years, and to give their absolute best during the last mile towards the finishing line.

Endorsement of the Senior Certificate (as amended)

The registration period for the 2019 Senior Certificate (as amended) examinations is open and will close on 31 January 2019.

The Senior Certificate (as amended) now also allows candidates to obtain a University endorsement. As in the case of the NSC Examinations, Senior Certificate (as amended) examination candidates can also qualify for admission to Bachelor, Diploma or Higher Certificate programmes at Higher Education institutions.

Application information is available on:

[https://www.education.gov.za/Curriculum/SeniorCertificate\(amended\)/ASCRRegistration.aspx](https://www.education.gov.za/Curriculum/SeniorCertificate(amended)/ASCRRegistration.aspx)

Registration for 2019 Senior Certificate(amended) Examinations

10 October 2018 - 31 January 2019

At education district offices AND online!

Preparation for rolling out Systemic Evaluation underway

During the month of October, the DBE will be administering a pilot study on the implementation of its re-designed Systemic Evaluation model. The 2018 pilot study forms part of the first Systemic Evaluation cycle. The National Assessment Directorate has developed tests according to an internationally recognised matrix design, and has trained officials from the various PEDs to administer the pilot study in a purposeful sample of schools.

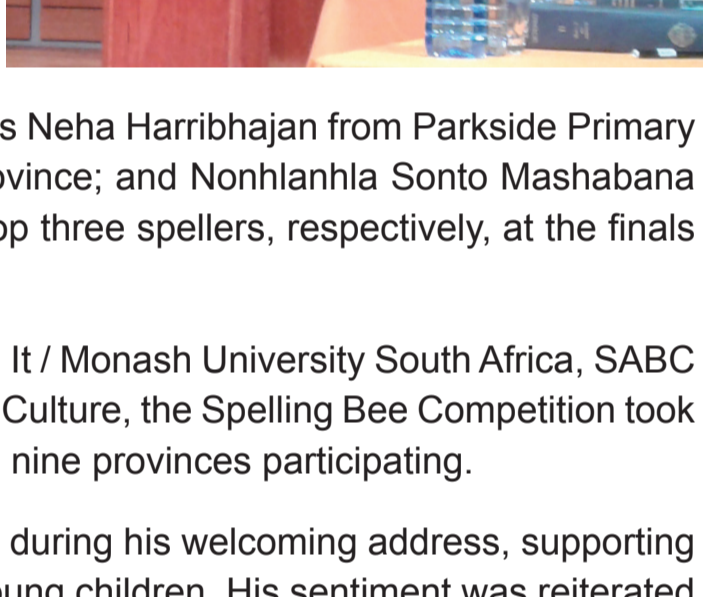
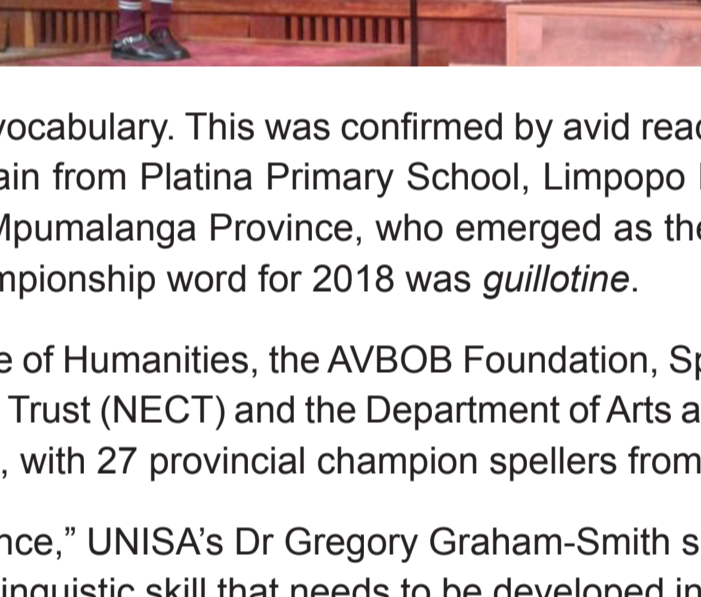
The new model of Systemic Evaluation is a comprehensive assessment of how the education system is performing in Grades 3, 6 and 9 against identified targets set out in the *Medium Term Strategic Framework* and the *National Development Plan* (NDP). It takes into account how learner achievement is being affected by the conditions of schooling, and the level of support schools receive from District Offices. There are three components, namely the assessment of learners in Mathematics and Languages in Grades 3, 6 and 9; the evaluation of schools through the application of Whole School Evaluation; and the evaluation of district support. The first cycle of the study will be taking place from 2018 to 2020. The pilot study will be conducted from 15 to 19 October 2018, and the main study will take place during October 2019. A national report will be published in 2020. The cycle of evaluation will be repeated every three years.

In a national representative sample of schools, a selection of 40 learners in Grades 3, 6, and 9 per school will participate in the testing. Schools are sampled across the nine provinces in selected languages. The findings and data from the evaluation must be used to enhance pedagogical practice. Systemic Evaluation will enable the Department to measure learner performance at regular intervals with a view towards understanding how they can be better supported at school level, and how the level of system support mediated by the District Office can be an enabler of improved learning outcomes.

In the pilot study, the languages targeted are English, IsiZulu, Sesotho and Afrikaans, distributed purposefully across the various provinces. In the main study, learners will be assessed in all 11 official languages at the Grade 3 level and in English and Afrikaans in Grades 6 and 9.

Approximately 12,000 learners in Grades 3, 6 and 9 from 100 schools are expected to participate in the pilot study. In the main study, approximately 162,000 learners from 2,700 schools will be participating.

Celebrating 2018 National Nutrition and Obesity Week



The Department, in partnership with Nestlé SA, has aligned National Nutrition Week from 09 to 15 October 2018 with National Obesity Week from 15 to 19 October 2018, and will be celebrating National Nutrition and Obesity Week (NNOW) from 09 to 19 October 2018, to promote healthy lifestyles in schools. NNOW advocates the importance of nutrition and healthy lifestyles among learners, educators, school administrators, parents, food handlers, school vendors and tuck-shop operators.

The first leg of the celebrations was hosted at Seganyane Primary School Acornhoek, Bodlayabongolo Greenvalley in the Bohlabela District, Mpumalanga Province on 11 October 2018, and the second leg will be hosted at Blaauwskop Intermediate School in Kanoneiland, Upington in the ZF Mgcawu District, Northern Cape Province on 17 October 2018.

Addressing parents and Seganyane Primary School learners, NSNP Director, Ms Neo Sediti indicated that "The sustainability of healthy eating habits within the schooling system contributes to a learner's academic success, as well as positive learning outcomes. Parents should monitor their children's diet at home to ensure an intake of the correct food groups such as fruit and vegetables". Ms Sediti further advised learners to drink lots of water daily and stay away from sweet beverages to avoid obesity.

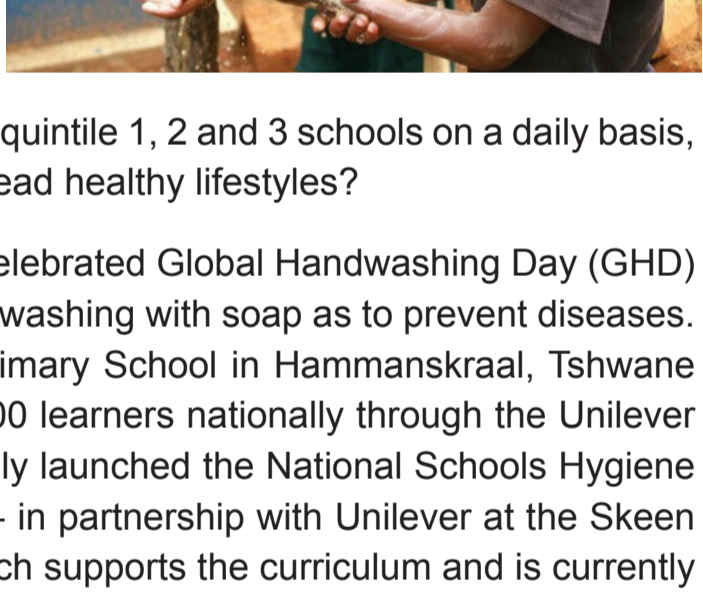
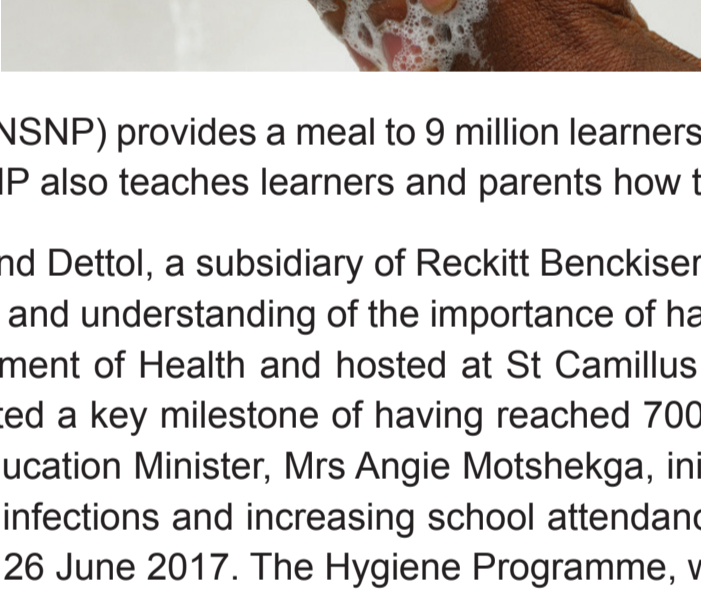
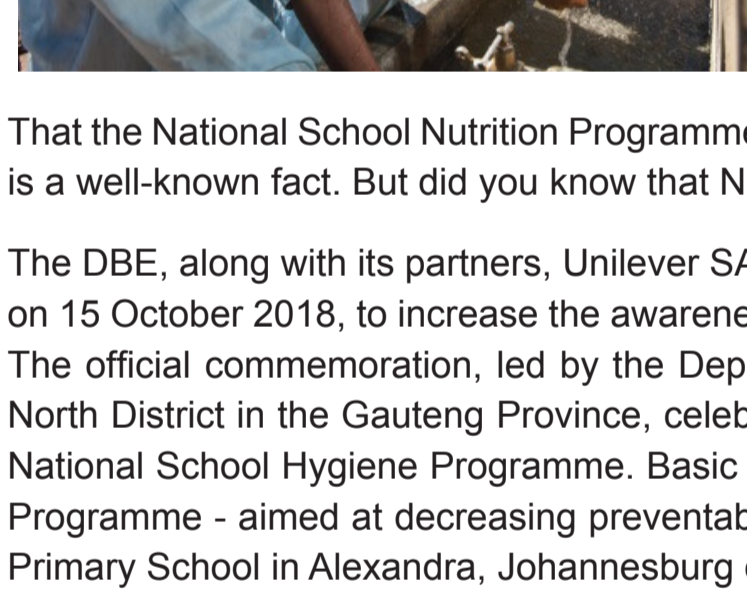
Ms Sediti thanked the various education stakeholders, including the Department of Health and Nestlé SA, for having joined forces with the DBE in the promotion of healthy lifestyles in schools. She then called upon teachers to emphasise the importance of physical education and healthy eating for learners to be able to maintain high levels of concentration in class.

The objective of 2018 NNOW is to, under the theme: "Breakfast – the best way to start your day!" create awareness amongst school communities about the health and nutritional benefits of eating breakfast every morning. Breakfast is the most important meal of the day! However, many of South Africa's most vulnerable children face the reality of confronting every day with little or nothing to eat. Through the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP), the DBE is making a positive impact by providing nutritious meals to more than 9 million learners across more than 21,000 schools and in so doing, contributing to a better quality of life for these vulnerable learners.

The aim of NNOW 2018 is to: emphasise the health benefits of eating breakfast regularly, especially for children and adolescents; to encourage consumers to make healthy breakfast choices, given time and budget constraints; and to provide information on how to plan and prepare a healthy breakfast.

Another main aim of the drive is to curb being overweight, obesity and unhealthy diets that are risk factors for non-communicable diseases. One of the goals of the *Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Obesity in South Africa, 2015 – 2020*, is communicating, educating and mobilising school communities to empower and encourage behavioural changes to make positive, life-enhancing decisions on healthy diets and physical activity, over the next three years.

Skilled spellers are strong readers



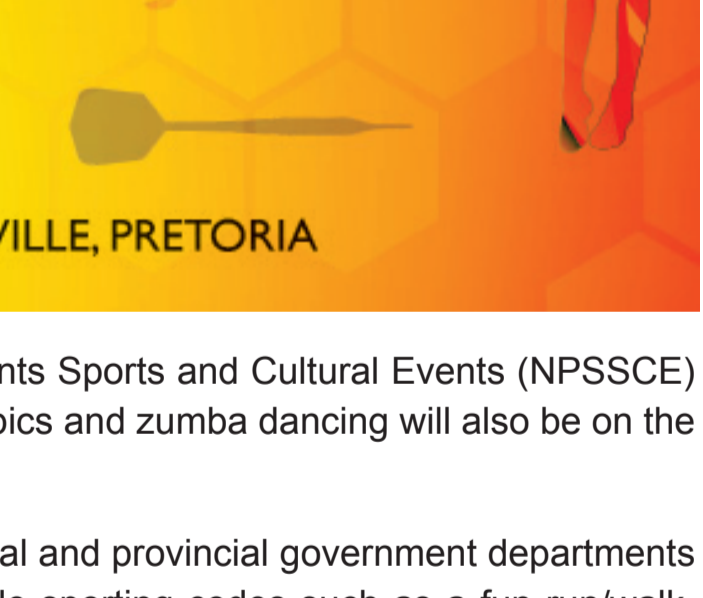
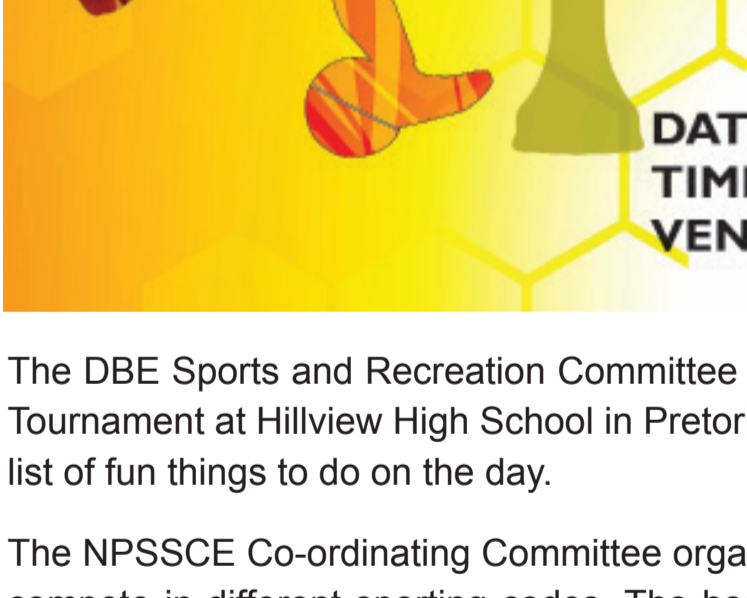
It is a fact that reading regularly expands one's vocabulary. This was confirmed by avid readers Neha Harribhajan from Parkside Primary School, KwaZulu-Natal Province; Rubina Hussain from Platina Primary School, Limpopo Province; and Nonhlanhla Sonto Mashabana from Blackhill-Schoongezicht Primary School, Mpumalanga Province, who emerged as the top three spellers, respectively, at the finals of the 2018 Spelling Bee Competition. The championship word for 2018 was *guillotine*.

Organised in partnership with the UNISA College of Humanities, the AVBOB Foundation, Spell It / Monash University South Africa, SAB Education, the National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT) and the Department of Arts and Culture, the Spelling Bee Competition took place on 06 October 2018, at UNISA in Pretoria, with 27 provincial champion spellers from all nine provinces participating.

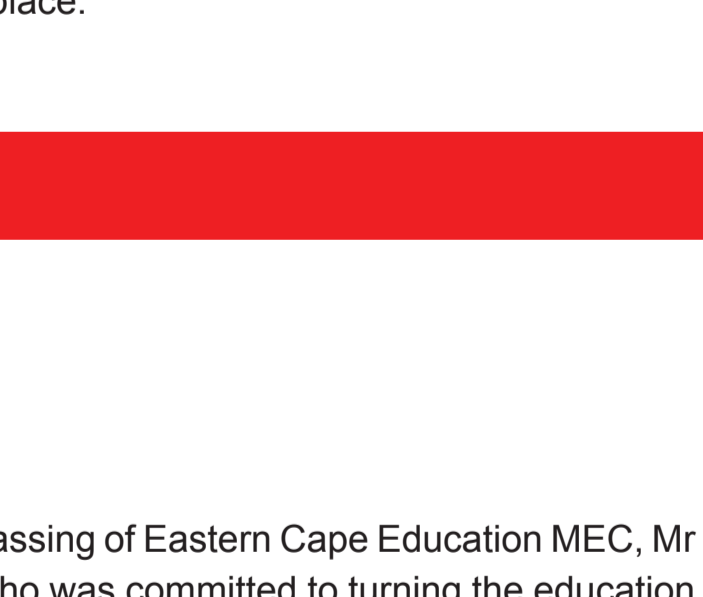
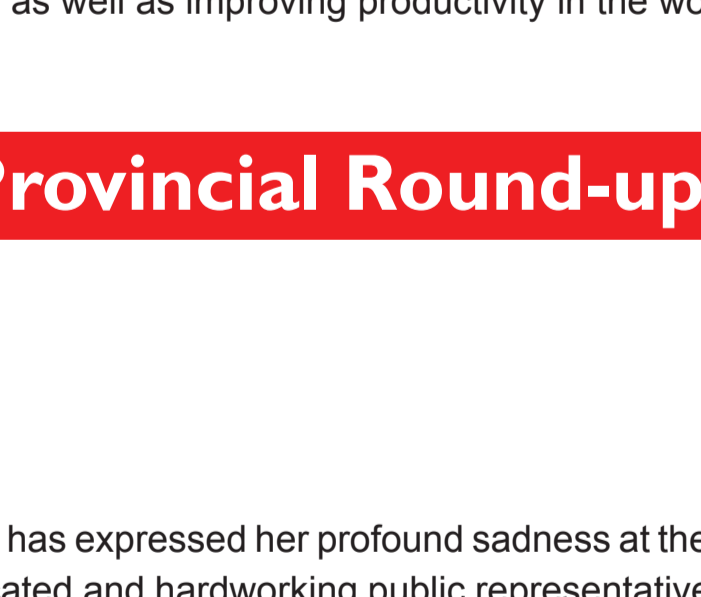
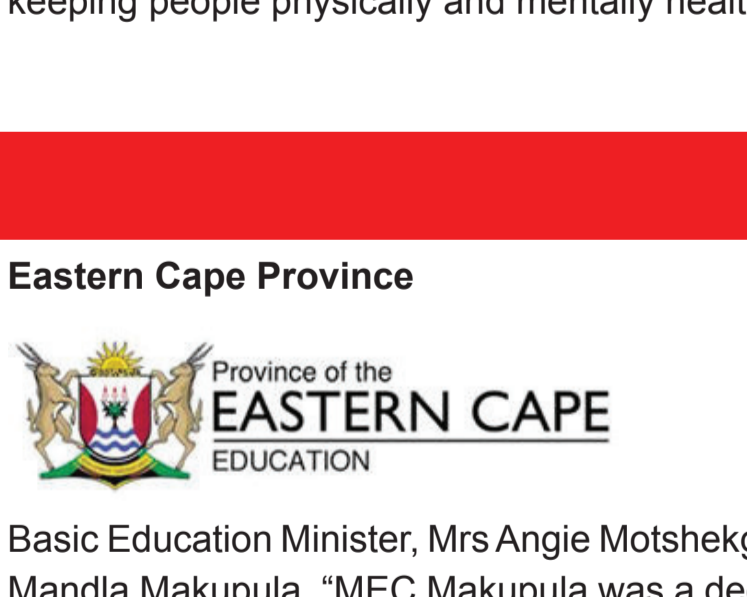
"Words matter and give substance to our existence," UNISA's Dr Gregory Graham-Smith said during his welcoming address, supporting the narrative that reading is the most important linguistic skill that needs to be developed in young children. His sentiment was reiterated by Dr Patricia Watson, Chief Director for Social Inclusion and Partnerships in Education, when she encouraged parents and teachers to continue supporting learners in their reading endeavours, saying that "Skilled spellers are strong readers. Parents need to commit to scheduling regular reading time with children".

The Spelling Bee, through its Reading Clubs Programme, is a response to studies that have been conducted during the past few years showing that South African learners are not able to read at expected levels, and are unable to execute tasks that demonstrate key literacy skills. In an effort to improve learners' performance in English, the Department has been successfully hosting national Spelling Bee Championships for the past four years. It is envisaged that this programme will not only improve the level of literacy in schools, but also inculcate a culture of reading as an enjoyable literary activity whilst laying a solid foundation for future academic performance.

Although the DBE will continue to strengthen partnerships that promote reading within the various South African communities, we still need the collective support of everyone to change attitudes and instil a passion for this critical skill.



National Schools Hygiene and Sanitation Programme advocates a culture of hand-washing



That the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) provides a meal to 9 million learners in quintile 1, 2 and 3 schools on a daily basis, is a well-known fact. But did you know that NSNP also teaches learners and parents how to lead healthy lifestyles?

The DBE, along with its partners, Unilever SA and Dettol, a subsidiary of Reckitt Benckiser, celebrated Global Handwashing Day (GHD) on 15 October 2018, to increase the awareness and understanding of the importance of handwashing with soap as to prevent diseases. The official commemoration, led by the Department of Health and hosted at St Camillus Primary School in Hammanskraal, Tshwane North District in the Gauteng Province, celebrated a key milestone of having reached 700,000 learners nationally through the Unilever National School Hygiene Programme. Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshhega, initially launched the National Schools Hygiene Programme - aimed at decreasing preventable infections and increasing school attendance - in partnership with Unilever at the Skeen Primary School in Alexandra, Johannesburg on 26 June 2017. The Hygiene Programme, which supports the curriculum and is currently being rolled out to 15,000 public primary schools across the country, is implemented in classrooms by teachers through a proven 21-day behavioural change model.

Since the first GHD on 15 October 2008, when over 120 million children around the world washed their hands with soap in more than 70 countries, community and national leaders have used this day to spread the word about handwashing. This day is a call for all South Africans to wash hands regularly with soap, especially after using the toilet, handling waste and before preparing food. The NSNP also maintains that it is important for learners, teachers and Voluntary Food Handlers to wash their hands when preparing and eating meals. The GHD has given an indication of the need for wash stations, as some ablution facilities are not conducive to the proper implementation of the handwashing activities for foundation phase learners. Unilever, as a valued and trusted partner in the Programme, pledged to support GDE with wash stations in a selection of schools. Unilever has, as part of celebrating this milestone and through its brand, Lifebuoy, installed 10 permanent new wash stations at St Camillus Primary school to help make hygiene education accessible to learners.

Beyond the GHD, the DBE will be working with Unilever and Dettol to lobby other business partners to ensure that tippytaps and permanent wash stations are installed in as many schools as possible to support the effective implementation of the programme. The National School Deworming Programme, implemented by the DBE to reduce worm infestation, also ensures that the investment to healthy lifestyles, made through the NSNP, is protected.

2018 NPSSCE Tournament – uniting government officials through sport

NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVANTS SPORTS AND CULTURAL EVENTS (NPSSCE) TOURNAMENT

HOSTED BY THE DBE

ACTIVE BODY, HEALTHY MIND

ACTIVITIES

Fun Walk | Run | Aerobics | Netball | Soccer | Volleyball | Darts | Pool
Table | Morabaraba | Jukei | Chess | Tag of War | Lawn Tennis | Table Tennis

DATE: 20 OCTOBER 2018
TIME: 06:00-21:00
VENUE: HILLVIEW HIGH SCHOOL, ROSEVILLE, PRETORIA

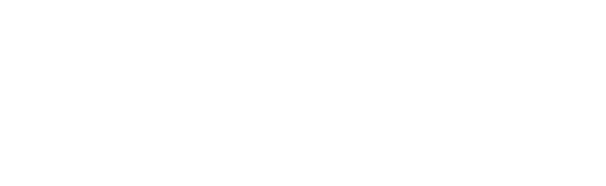
The DBE Sports and Recreation Committee will be hosting this year's National Public Servants Sports and Cultural Events (NPSSCE) Tournament at Hillview High School in Pretoria, Gauteng Province on 20 October 2018. Aerobics and zumba dancing will also be on the list of fun things to do on the day.

The NPSSCE Co-ordinating Committee organises annual tournaments where national and provincial government departments compete in different sporting codes. The hostings of these annual tournaments, which include sporting codes such as a fun run/walk, soccer, netball, volleyball, pool, morabaraba, darts, jukei and chess, is alternated between various government departments. Last year's tournament was hosted by the National Department of Health.

Sport in the workplace promotes physical activity and offers various health benefits for individuals as well as for participating team members. Participation in various sporting codes is beneficial for group cohesion and performance. Sport plays an important role in keeping people physically and mentally healthy, as well as improving productivity in the workplace.

Provincial Round-up

Eastern Cape Province



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshhega, has expressed her profound sadness at the passing of Eastern Cape Education MEC, Mr Mandla Makupula. "MEC Makupula was a dedicated and hardworking public representative who was committed to turning the education system around in the Eastern Cape Province. It is sad that he will not live to see the fruits of the hard work he has put in; however, his legacy will live on through the education initiatives he put in place to improve the quality and efficiency of education in the province. During the 2017 National Senior Certificate examinations, the Eastern Cape was the only province that registered an increase in results under his capable leadership. His passion for education will be sorely missed," said the Minister. The funeral for MEC Makupula, who was the longest serving education MEC in the Eastern Cape, will take place on 20 October 2018.

Western Cape Province

BETTER TOGETHER.

On 09 October 2018, more than a million learners in the Western Cape Province returned to school for the fourth and final term of the 2018 academic year. During this period the Western Cape Education Department (WCED) will be finalising preparations for the 2019 school year, as they plan to welcome over 1 million learners into schools in 2019. (WCED) the fourth term 53,764 full time candidates will commence writing the NSC Examinations on 22 October 2018. Learners will also be writing systemic assessment tests in Language and Mathematics from 10 to 24 October 2018; and the 2018 Provincial Teacher Awards will be taking place on 02 November 2018. While the examinations and assessments will keep many educators and learners occupied during this term, School Management Teams and the WCED will also be working together to finalise arrangements for the 2019 school year.

North West Province

The North West Education and Sport Development MEC, Mr Sello Lehari, congratulated the 2016 National Teachers Awards (NTA) winner in the Lifetime Achievement category, Mr Lesiba Pila, principal of Rutanang Primary School in Rustenburg. Mr Pila was nominated by the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to represent 435,000 fellow teachers at the UNESCO Awards held in Paris, France on 05 October 2018 as part of the World Teachers' Day celebrations. Mr Pila, who has been serving as a principal since 1985, is one of the longest serving school principals in the country. MEC Lehari said, "I congratulate Mr Pila on his sterling achievement. I want to emphasize that a nation without teachers is a doomed nation, I am really proud that we celebrate his achievement as a teacher. This will serve as a good motivation for future generations to see that one can still have a successful career as a teacher. I believe that many people will follow in his footsteps to see that hard work really pays off".

Upcoming Events

• 09 – 19 October 2018: The DBE, in partnership with Nestlé SA, will be celebrating National Nutrition and Obesity Week (NNOW) to promote healthy lifestyles in schools

• 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

• 15 October 2018: Government, led by the Department of Health, will be hosting the official commemoration of Global Handwashing Day at the St Camillus Primary School in Hammanskraal, Tshwane North District in the Gauteng Province

• 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: 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 Motshhega 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 Motshhega 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 Motshhega 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) are 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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