



THUTO

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THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



NEWSLETTER

Minister meets with Tanzanian High Commission regarding collaboration on Kiswahili



There has been much excitement in many quarters since Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, announced earlier this year that South African schools will be offering Kiswahili at a Second Additional Language level.

This excitement reached as far as Tanzania, Minister Motshekga discovered on 31 October 2018, following a meeting with the Tanzanian High Commissioner to South Africa, Mr Sylvester M Ambokile.

During September 2018, the Council of Education Ministers (CEM) approved the listing of Kiswahili as an optional Second Additional Language to be offered to learners.

There are currently fifteen (15) non-official languages listed in the National Curriculum Statement (NCS) as optional subjects; these include the likes of French, German, Mandarin and such. Unfortunately, there was no African language in the list of languages.

Kiswahili is a Bantu 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. Kiswahili was used as a trading language and a means of inter-ethnic communication long before the arrival of Europeans in Africa. It is expanding to countries that never spoke the language and has the power to bring Africans together. It is also one of the official languages of the African Union (AU). The Minister hopes this will help to promote social cohesion with fellow Africans across the continent.

Click on the below link for the full article:

<https://www.education.gov.za/ArchivedDocuments/ArchivedArticles/Kiswahili.aspx>.

Ministerial Roadshows visit the Western Cape Province



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, continued the country-wide *Read to Lead Campaign*, Second Chance Matric Support Programme and Funza Lushaka Bursary Programme Roadshows in Lawaaiikamp, outside George in the Western Cape Province on 27 October 2018. The community hall was filled to capacity as approximately 300 out of school youth came to acquire information about the opportunity to re-write their matric through the Second Chance Matric Support Programme.

Several Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs), including the Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services Sector Education and Training Authority (merSETA), the Food and Beverages SETA, the ETDP-SETA and the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) were present to provide career guidance and share bursary information, including Vodacom E-Schooling. Lawaaiikamp has many youth who have not completed matric and are unemployed, despite being a township nestled between Knysna and George on the coastal stretch known as the Garden Route.

Minister Motshekga encouraged the youth to acquire their matric qualification, as it is the key to opening the doors of opportunity. The Minister also encouraged learners with a matric and a university entry pass to register online for the Funza Lushaka Bursary, which covers all tuition fees for those who want to take up teaching as a career. The Minister handed out a 3-book pack in local languages (Afrikaans, English and isiXhosa) to all those attending as part of the *Read to Lead Campaign*, urging them to read and rotate the books amongst their friends and family, to instil a reading culture in the community.

<https://www.education.gov.za/Programmes/SecondChanceProgramme.aspx>



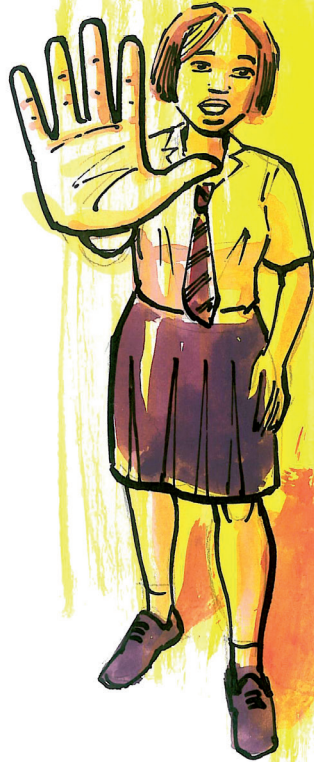
Reports of dangerous substance being consumed by learners raise serious concerns

The Department of Basic Education (DBE) and the South African Police Service (SAPS) have issued a warning of a suspicious and potentially dangerous “dagga-like” substance being smoked by learners. The SAPS is calling on parents, teachers and learners to be aware of this substance as it has already resulted in fourteen young people being hospitalised in the greater Pretoria area. Similar cases have also been reported in the Witbank and Brits areas, but these are yet to be confirmed. The police are working with medical doctors and forensic experts to determine what the “dagga-like” substance is, and where it originated from.

The DBE calls on all parents, teachers and learners to be vigilant, and not to tolerate any kind of dealings in narcotics. It is especially worrying as some reports indicate that this substance can be purchased over the counter in stores in plastic coated silver foil child friendly packaging with names like Crazy Coconut, Blazing Tuti Fruti, Fun Bubble Gum, Herbal Blend and others. The SAPS urges citizens who encounter these packets to take them to their nearest police station. Schools that find suspicious packages on learners are also requested to contact the SAPS immediately.

<https://www.education.gov.za/Programmes/HealthPromotion.aspx>

Addressing sexual abuse and harassment in schools



The DBE is currently conducting advocacy workshops in the various provinces on the newly developed *Protocol for the Management and Reporting of Sexual Abuse and Harassment in Schools*. These workshops have already taken place in seven provinces, with engagements in the Eastern Cape and Mpumalanga Provinces scheduled to take place during November 2018. Through the development of the Protocol, the Department is fully committed to reporting and rooting out sexual abuse and harassment in schools. Schools are expected to be safe havens for learners to reach their full potential.

The Protocol has been developed to equip the DBE, the Provincial Education Departments (PEDs), District Offices and School Management Teams (SMTs), with the necessary guidelines to manage and effectively report all incidences of sexual abuse and harassment, as mandated by the *Sexual Offences and Related Matters Amendment (SORMAA) Act 32 Of 2007*. The Protocol will further ensure an appropriate and timely response to cases of sexual abuse and harassment perpetrated against learners. The Protocol was developed by the Department, together with UNICEF and UNESCO during 2017.

Class of 2018 writes examination papers on gateway subjects



This week, the National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examinations saw the Class of 2018 writing examination papers on gateway subjects such as Technical Mathematics, Mathematics and Accounting.

Technical Mathematics is only offered to learners taking technical subjects such as Mechanical, Civil and Electrical Engineering in Grades 10 to 12. The curriculum for Technical Mathematics was incrementally implemented in Grade 10 during 2016, Grade 11 during 2017 and Grade 12 during 2018. More than 319,418 candidates wrote Mathematics whilst 12,595 candidates wrote Technical Mathematics during 2018.

Chief Education Specialist for Mathematics, Mr Leonard Gumani Mudau, said that the rationale for rolling out Technical Mathematics in schools was to strengthen the teaching of technical subjects – focusing more on application than abstract ideas. “This approach would help the DBE to equip learners with significant mental processes aimed at instilling logical and critical thinking, and accuracy and problem solving skills which would also increase entrepreneurship opportunities in the country,” added Mr Mudau.

[https://www.education.gov.za/Curriculum/NationalSeniorCertificate\(NSC\)Examinations.aspx](https://www.education.gov.za/Curriculum/NationalSeniorCertificate(NSC)Examinations.aspx)

DBE urges parents to co-operate with schools to speed up learner admissions



The DBE is currently completing all learner admission processes for the 2019 academic year to ensure that schools are prepared for the commencement of quality learning and teaching on the first day of schooling.

Mr James Ndlebe, Director for Education Management and Governance Development said that, “The majority of learners have already been placed and Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) are currently verifying data to ensure that there are no duplications during the admission process. The lists for final placement are expected to be finalised by the end of November 2018.

Mr Ndlebe called upon parents to co-operate with schools in responding timeously when requested to accept notifications for the placement of their children. “Another aspect that affects learner admissions is that parents are refusing to accept placements at alternative schools, when their preferred schools have reached their full capacity levels,” added Mr Ndlebe.

<https://www.education.gov.za/Portals/0/Documents/Publications/Principals/BUSINESS%20PROCESS%20FOR%20ADMISSIONS.pdf?ver=2018-06-27-103842-563>

Let's Play Physical Education Challenge promotes healthy lifestyles for learners



The semi-finals of the 2018 *Let's Play* Physical Education Challenge, a school sport initiative for primary schools in South Africa, will be taking place at Khuthalani Primary School in KwaMhlanga, Mpumalanga Province on 06 November 2018, with eight schools in Grades 4 and 6 representing eight provinces. These winning schools have beaten all their provincial competitors to reach this level. A school which will win the championship from the Northern Cape Province will later compete against the winning school chosen during the semi-finals, in the finals which will take place during December 2018.

The winning school will receive an all-weather multi-purpose sporting court to the value of R1.4 million, sponsored by The Sports Trust. The physical education drive, spearheaded by Active Education and supported by *SuperSport Let's Play*, showcases the importance of Physical Education in schools.

During the Challenge, which is in its fourth year of implementation, learners face an obstacle course that has to be completed within 45 minutes through a variety of exercises at all competing schools administered and adjudicated by the Active Education team whilst the teachers will be supervising the learners. For the 2018 Challenge, a total of 28,600 Grade 4 and 6 learners, 240,812 learners from all Grades introduced to Physical Education, and 286 primary schools participated. The Jan van Riebeeck Primary School in Springs, Gauteng Province was the winning school during last year's Challenge.

<https://activeeducation.co.za/lets-play-challenge/>



Provincial Round-up

Northern Cape Province



Northern Cape Department of Education

The Northern Cape Department of Education (NCDoE) recognised and acknowledged excellence in education on 30 October 2018, when the 2018 Provincial Teaching Awards were held at the Mittah Seperepere Convention Centre in Kimberley. Northern Cape MEC for Education, Ms Martha Bartlett, addressed teachers saying, “Your achievement shows that, despite the challenges and controversies we face in our education system, our schools continue to yield a cadre of torch-bearers, tirelessly working hard to deliver quality education. I thank the teachers we honour today, as well as other great teachers in our schools who quietly devote their lives to inspiring our learners”. The Annual National Teaching Awards (NTAs) were conceptualised and launched in 2000 by the late Professor Kader Asmal. Since their inception, the NTAs have become a popular way of recognising and awarding teachers who make a difference in learning and teaching. Once the provincial winners have been identified in the various provinces, the National NTA adjudication process will be taking place in the Gauteng Province from 11 to 18 November 2018, with the top three candidates in each category competing for the prime spot during the 19th NTAs which will be taking place on 16 February 2019.

Eastern Cape Province



Province of the **EASTERN CAPE** EDUCATION

Excellent customer service does not only imply meeting expectations, but exceeding them. In an effort to enhance customer service excellence, the Eastern Cape Department of Education (ECDoE), in partnership with Vodacom, have developed a Communication Application (App) called “Sikuncede Njani”, which translates to “How can we help you?” The App will be using mobile technology to bring about administrative efficiency to enhance communication between the ECDoE and community members. The App will allow the community to interact with the Department on a wide range of education-related issues; will assist managers to accurately measure the performance of front line officials; and assist Call Centre officials to interact proactively to deal effectively with concerns raised.

Upcoming Events

- 09 November 2018: Minister Motshekga to embark on a Second Chance Matric Support Programme Roadshow to De Aar in the Northern Cape Province
- 09 November 2018: The DBE, along with Massmart/Game, will be handing over a kitchen as part of the AmaLunchbox Campaign to a school in Mamelodi in the Gauteng Province. An Oral Hygiene Campaign presentation with Colgate will also be taking place on the day
- 10 November 2018: Minister Motshekga to embark on a Second Chance Matric Support Programme Roadshow to Colesberg in the Northern Cape Province
- 11 – 18 November 2018: The national adjudication process for the 19th Annual National Teaching Awards (NTAs) will be taking place in the Gauteng Province
- 15 November 2018: Minister Motshekga to embark on a Second Chance Matric Support Programme Roadshow to Kuruman in the Northern Cape Province
- 24 November 2018: Minister Motshekga to embark on a Second Chance Matric Support Programme Roadshow to Newcastle in the KwaZulu-Natal Province
- 30 November 2018: The DBE will be commemorating World AIDS Day at Pondolwendlovu Senior Secondary School in the OR Tambo Coastal District, Eastern Cape Province

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