



THUTO

PRODUCED BY:
THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



NEWSLETTER

Message by the DG of Basic Education on the commemoration of World AIDS Day







World AIDS Day (WAD) is commemorated annually on 1 December. It is an opportunity for the world to unite in the fight against HIV, show support for people living with HIV and to remember those who have died of AIDS.

South Africa has made tremendous progress since 2009 to turn the HIV and TB epidemics around. More people than ever before are receiving antiretroviral treatment and are living longer and healthier.




However, new HIV infections continue to be a stubborn problem, especially among 15 to 24 year old girls. Stigma and discrimination also continue to be prevalent in our communities, undermining the collective effort on prevention, treatment, support and care of people living with HIV and those who have Tuberculosis (TB).

On WAD 2018, the Department of Basic Education joins the rest of South Africa to take stock of our collective progress to date. The latest national HIV incidence and prevalence survey of 2017 has shown that new HIV infections have declined by 48 percent since the last survey. However, a much more rapid decline is required to gain epidemic control. As a sector, we can be proud of the contribution we have made in the overall multi-sector response to HIV and TB in the country. We can count, amongst others on the following:

-  Improving the quality of basic education and retaining learners in school until Grade 12 because evidence supports our assertion that “*Safe Schools Protect Children*”;
-  The HIV and AIDS Life skills programme that has expanded its focus beyond curriculum activities to include programmes to address the drivers of HIV such as alcohol and drug use, early sexual debut, vulnerability through provision of a package of pro-poor programmes, peer education, as well as care and support for orphans and other vulnerable learners;
-  Implementation of the DBE’s *National Policy on HIV, STIs and TB for Learners, Educators, School Support Staff and Officials in all Primary and Secondary Schools in the Basic Education Sector*, which was approved by Cabinet last year, will also strengthen programmes targeting educators and officials; and
-  Annually hosting the Commemoration of WAD in the Department including build-up activities with educators and learners, as well as implementing a post-commemoration programme throughout the year. This is in addition to participating in WAD events in the country led by the Deputy President of the Republic and the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC).

The national theme for WAD 2018 is **“Know Your Status”**. The theme places the responsibility on everyone to test and know their HIV status. This means that learners, educators and officials must play an active role in this regard, as well as screening for TB. The DBE will use the 2018 theme to guide activities beyond the 2018 DBE World AIDS Day Commemoration.

This year, the DBE World AIDS Day will be commemorated on 30 November 2018 at Pondolwendlovu Senior Secondary School in the Nyandeni Municipality, Libode District in the Eastern Cape Province. I encourage all learners, educators and officials to participate in the national programme of action in solidarity with the rest of the world. Schools are encouraged to mark this day in some way. Let us all commemorate World AIDS Day by:

-  Supporting the national efforts towards the prevention of HIV, TB, teenage pregnancy, as well as alcohol and drug use in the basic education sector;
-  Encouraging and supporting schools to participate in build-up activities (including access to health services) focusing on the theme **“Know Your Status”**; and
-  Supporting the full implementation of the Care and Support Programmes in schools, in particular the DBE’s *National Policy on HIV, STIs and TB for Learners, Educators, School Support Staff and Officials in all Primary and Secondary Schools in the Basic Education Sector*.

The DBE is committed to progressively provide Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE), as well as facilitating access to Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services to learners. We will use WAD to solicit learners’ opinions on how best to provide CSE and SRH services in schools. Dialogues with learners and parents will continue to take place across the country. The input will be used to inform the Department’s implementation of programmes in a learner-centred manner.

The Department on its own cannot address the myriad of social challenges that learners are faced with in communities. It is for this reason that I call for the support of everybody, especially parents/caregivers and members of the community to join us in the fight against HIV, sexually transmitted infections, teenage pregnancy and Tuberculosis in our schools.

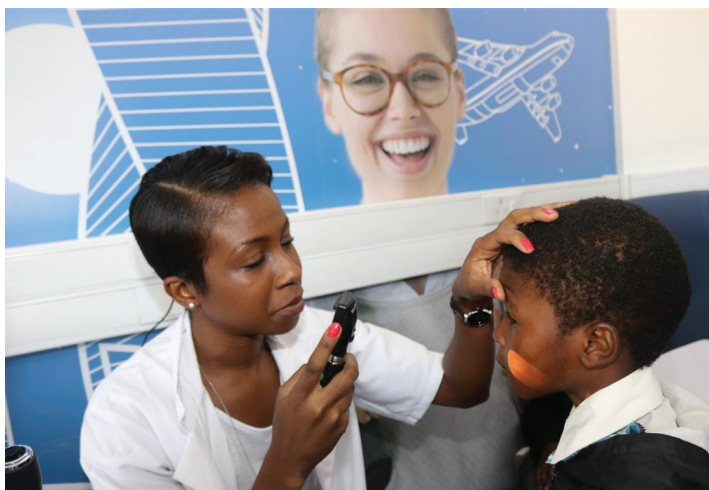
Mr HM Mweli

Director-General

<https://www.gov.za/WorldAIDSDay2018>



DBE commemorates World AIDS Day in the Eastern Cape Province



Various education stakeholders, including learners, parents and members of School Governing Bodies (SGBs) from the OR Tambo Coastal District gathered at Pondolwendlovu Senior Secondary School in the Eastern Cape Province on 30 November 2018, to commemorate the DBE World AIDS Day.

Basic Education Chief Director for Care and Support in Schools, Dr Faith Kumalo, addressed Eastern Cape community members, urging parents and learners to collaborate with Government in the fight against HIV and AIDS, particularly amongst adolescents and the youth.

The commemoration, hosted under the theme #Cheka Impilo #Know Your Status, was also utilised as an opportunity to provide health screening and sexual and reproductive health services to learners, as well as health and wellness services to educators, school support staff and officials as part of implementing the DBE's *National Policy on HIV, STIs and TB for Learners, Educators, School Support Staff and Officials in all Primary and Secondary Schools in the Basic Education Sector*.

The Policy, which was approved by Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, Education MECs and Cabinet, was put in place in the education sector to ensure that every education stakeholder plays a significant role in the prevention of new HIV and TB infections, as well as learner pregnancy within the school environment.

As part of the commemoration, the DBE and the Eastern Cape Education Department arranged mobile clinic services, which screened more than 2,000 learners in the aforementioned district, focusing on eye testing, dental services, hearing testing and general health services.



Roundtable to enhance government services for children with severe to profound intellectual disability



"The fact that the Roundtable is taking place during Disability Rights Awareness Month, which is commemorated annually from 03 November to 03 December, is an indication that the Department is taking matters relating to inclusivity seriously," said Dr Mamiki Maboya, DDG for Curriculum Policy, Support and Monitoring. The Roundtable on enhancing government services for Children/learners with Severe to Profound Intellectual Disability (CSPID) took place at the DBE in Pretoria on 26 November 2018. The purpose of the Roundtable was to reflect on progress made in respect of the Western Cape court order of 2010 (Case Number 18678/2007), and to identify mechanisms for addressing challenges whilst strengthening the provision of services for CSPID. The Roundtable was attended by participants from the DBE, PEDs, the Departments of Transport and Social Development (Western Cape) and the Western Cape Forum for Intellectual Disability.

Dr Moses Simelane, Chief Director for Curriculum Implementation and Monitoring, presented a report on the progress made by government departments in the implementation of the court order for the efficient coordination of services for CSPID. Dr Simelane reported that significant progress, starting with the joint preliminary audit which was conducted in 393 special care centres to analyse the situation, had been made in the implementation of the court order.

Delegates, in four commissions, agreed that it is important to enhance inter-departmental collaboration, coordination and accountability for efficient integrated service delivery. The commissions on the review of legislation and policies to strengthen service provisioning for C/LSPID, recommended that there was a need to formulate an interdepartmental task team to review all relevant policies and legislation. These include, amongst others, the *South African Schools Act (SASA)* and the *Learner Transport Policy*. In respect of providing services beyond the court order, the commission looking at this aspect, recommended that the Conditional Grant be elevated from a Schedule 5 to a Schedule 4 grant for it to be strengthened as a mechanism to supplement allocations from the PEDs. However, the Roundtable advised against such a move, given the challenges that the sector was experiencing with Schedule 4 conditional grants. The commission on the future role of special care centres recommended that the space of special care centres must be regulated and transformed to expand service delivery options for young people with disabilities.

Going forward, the report of the day's proceedings will be shared with all stakeholders representing the relevant departments. Task Teams will be established, in line with the four themes discussed, to refine and focus the work into an implementable plan of action, which must be in place before the end of January 2019. An Intergovernmental meeting will then be held to discuss and adopt the plan by March 2019 for presentation to Cabinet for final approval. The departments involved are: Transport, Health, Cooperative Government and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), Public Works, Social Development and Basic Education.

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



Ending the academic year on a sporting note



<https://www.srsa.gov.za/media/joint-statement-signing-mou-between-srsa-and-dbe-improve-school-sports>

Provincial Round-up

KwaZulu-Natal Province



education

Department:
Education**PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL**

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Education, Mr Mthandeni Dlungwana, was the guest speaker at the 16 Days of Activism Campaign against crime, violence, teenage pregnancy, women and children abuse that took place at Noordsberg Sportsfield near Bhamshela in the iLembe District on 27 November 2018. The 2018 16 Days of Activism Campaign for No Violence against Women and Children was launched on 25 November in Melmoth, KwaZulu-Natal Province under the theme: *#HearMeToo: End Violence against Women and Children!* The Campaign will be taking place from 25 November to 10 December 2018. During this period, Government will convene a series of dialogues on violence against women and children to focus on the problem, discuss the causes and to find appropriate solutions. Through the dialogue sessions government will interact with community members who experience violence and abuse. Women are encouraged to share their stories to raise awareness and to encourage other women to speak out. Gender-based violence can take many forms, from unwanted verbal sexual advances to physical acts of violence. The purpose of this year's theme is to highlight the varied nature of gender-based violence, as well as the far-reaching effect it has on survivors.



#HearMeToo! A Woman of Fortitude

25 NOVEMBER – 10 DECEMBER

#NGIZWE #NDIVE #NKUTLWE #HOOR-MY #YINGISEZA #THETSHELESA



Two young research stars from Carnarvon High School in the Northern Cape Province were selected to represent South Africa at the International Student-Teacher Conference in Nice, France. The Grade 11 learners, Amy-Lee Visagie and Chrislin de Koker, won the National Global Travel and Tourism Partnership (GTTP) competition. The pupils submitted a research piece on astronomy tourism and how the Southern African Large Telescope (SALT) in Sutherland and the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) near Carnarvon in the Northern Cape Province contribute to the local communities. The GTTP is a multi-country educational programme to introduce tourism students to career opportunities in the sector. The pupils, accompanied by their teacher Christo Fieland, will join national teams from 13 GTTP member countries at the GTTP International Student-Teacher Conference on 01 December 2018. The pupils were assisted in their research by the National Research Foundation, a Department of Science and Technology (DST) entity.

Upcoming Events

- 30 November – 01 December 2018: The Transnet Games will be taking place at Rosina Sedibana Sports School in Laudium, Pretoria in the Gauteng Province
- 01 December 2018: Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, will be conducting monitoring visits to NSC Marking Centres in the Eastern Cape Province
- 02 – 04 December 2018: Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, will be conducting monitoring visits to NSC Marking Centres in the Mpumalanga Province
- 05 December 2018: Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, will be conducting monitoring visits to NSC Marking Centres in the KwaZulu-Natal 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) at the Universities of Johannesburg and the Witwatersrand in the Gauteng 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 National 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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