



THUTO

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THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



NEWSLETTER

Join the national reading revolution!



President Cyril Ramaphosa has called upon all South Africans to join the national reading revolution by reading at least one book a week.

President Ramaphosa made this call during the Basic Education Sector Lekgotla which took place at the Birchwood Hotel and Conference Centre in Benoni on 21 January 2019 saying that, "Reading is important. I want to call on all of you to start a reading revolution. Let us get South Africa reading. When we all start to read in a serious manner, we will be able to open new avenues of knowledge, innovation and creativity".

The President added that, in preparing for the 6th democratic administration, the Basic Education Sector Plan needs to focus on a number of critical areas. He identified the development and implementation of a comprehensive strategy on improving reading as one of these critical intervention areas.

The National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT) and the Department of Basic Education (DBE) will therefore be launching the National Reading Collaboration (NRC) on 15 February 2019 at the Kopanong Hotel and Conference Centre in Benoni in the Gauteng Province. The NRC is aimed at coordinating reading improvement efforts nationally.

Parents, guardians and children of all ages can enjoy and share in the benefits of reading. You too can join the revolution. Start a book club in your community, donate books to your local school or library, read to your children or write a book. Let's get South Africa reading!

<https://www.education.gov.za/Programmes/Read2Lead.aspx>

World Read Aloud Day aims to spread the joy of a story to 1.5 million children



Nal'ibali, will attempt to break the world read aloud record by reaching 1.5 million children on World Read Aloud Day (WRAD) today.

WRAD on 01 February, is one of the biggest annual literacy drives organised in partnership with the Department of Basic Education (DBE), in reaching out to thousands of children and adults in its bid to raise awareness of the importance of reading aloud. This will assist children to read in their mother-tongue, and with meaning, to develop their literacy proficiency.

The exciting event will be taking place at the Sandton Library, Nelson Mandela Square with 200 children from Soweto and Alexandra attending. The reading will be done by this year's campaign ambassador, children's author and social activist, Ms Lebohang Masango in support of the DBE's Read to Lead Campaign.

Nal'ibali celebrates WRAD annually by commissioning a brand-new story and translating it into all 11 official languages, before asking South Africans to join them in reading it aloud to their children. Nal'ibali has also partnered with Blind SA and Sign Language and Education Development (SLED) to ensure that children in the deaf and blind communities are able to enjoy the story through the production of a braille story card, and a digital video in South African Sign Language.

During 2018, the read aloud story was written by acclaimed South African author, Ms Zukiswa Wanner, and was read to 1, 000 school children at the Mofolo Cultural Bowl in Mofolo Park, Soweto, Gauteng Province.

www.nalibali.org

The 2019 Second Chance Matric Support Programme Roadshows commence in full force



The 2019 Second Chance Matric Support Programme Roadshows have commenced in full force. Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, embarked on a nationwide campaign to encourage the youth to join the Second Chance Matric Support Programme (SCMSP) last year. This year, the Minister remains committed to spreading her message of hope to as many young adults as possible. For this reason, her SCMSP Roadshows for 2019 commenced in Secunda in the Mpumalanga Province on 25 January 2019. The Minister will be visiting Aliwal North and Port Elizabeth in the Eastern Cape Province on 02 and 09 February respectively.

Young people whose academic goals have been temporarily shattered as a result of not meeting the requirements of the National Senior Certificate (NSC) are, through the SCMSP, presented with an opportunity to create a new dawn for themselves. The DBE established the programme in 2015 to provide those who were not able to meet the requirements of the NSC, a chance to advance their academic goals. The Programme is critical because having a formal qualification increases an individual's chances of employment, whilst also opening the doors of learning for young people with the ambition to pursue careers at Institutions of Higher Learning.

Although the SCMSP offers services free of charge, it requires candidates to be committed and dedicated to their studies. In Instances where candidates encounter difficulty in some subjects, online and face to face support is offered through a collaboration between the DBE and the Provincial Education Departments (PEDs).

[https://www.education.gov.za/Curriculum/NationalSeniorCertificate\(NSC\)Examinations/SecondChanceProgramme/tabid/956/Default.aspx](https://www.education.gov.za/Curriculum/NationalSeniorCertificate(NSC)Examinations/SecondChanceProgramme/tabid/956/Default.aspx)

Be a winner whilst supporting our teachers in preparation for the 19th annual NTAs



The 19th annual National Teaching Awards (NTA) ceremony, hosted by Basic Education Minister Mrs Angie Motshekga, is scheduled to take place on 16 February 2019, at the Sandton Convention Centre in the Gauteng Province. This event promises to be a celebration of note to honour our national winners. The NTA is one of the ways in which the DBE acknowledges extraordinary efforts made by teachers, often in very difficult conditions.

NTA promotions, or promos, are currently being run on SABC 1, 2 and 3 to generate interest and awareness about the NTA broadcast on SABC 2 on 28 February 2019. The promos centre on the nine nominees for the Professor Kader Asmal Award Category. Their part in the promo is to indicate their name, surname and province, and to mention one of the initiatives that they are involved with to give back to their respective communities.

The viewers are then given an opportunity to participate by choosing who they think is their winner. Viewers stand a chance to win tickets to attend the prestigious award ceremony, by voting for their favourite candidate via SMS on 33017.

The promo campaign commenced on 10 January 2019 and will end on 10 February 2019. On the following day, 11 February 2019, two numbers will be randomly drawn in the presence of a representative from the DBE, Black Voice Media, SABC 2 and SABC Education for transparency and for audit purposes. Each winner, along with their partner, will be transported from their home to Sandton on 15 February 2019, accommodated overnight to attend the award ceremony, and will be transported back home the following day. The two winners will receive their prizes on stage. Prizes will be presented by a representative from SABC 2 and SABC Education, along with a handshake from Minister Motshekga.

The DBE acknowledges and celebrates excellence in the teaching profession through the Teacher Appreciation and Support Programme (TASP) annually. The NTA is a comprehensive process that commences in the provinces with the nomination, identification and sifting through of expertise and excellence in the teaching profession, and covering teachers from a range of South African schools.

<https://www.education.gov.za/Informationfor/Teachers/NationalTeachingAwards.aspx>



Director-General urges provincial officials and school principals to prioritise a culture of reading



Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, called upon provincial officials and school principals to strengthen a culture of reading when he visited the Eastern Cape and Limpopo Provinces during 28 to 31 January 2019, to ensure the effective functionality of schools.

Mr Mveli was impressed with the collective efforts invested by officials in both provinces in transforming the landscape of education. He applauded the Eastern Cape Province for having achieved a 5.6% improvement rate in the National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examinations and urged school principals to provide adequate support to progressed learners to achieve more bachelor passes and distinctions during 2019.

Mr Mveli encouraged education stakeholders to work towards attaining the goals of the National Development Plan (NDP), which mandates the sector to ensure that by 2030, 90% of learners in the General Education and Training (GET) and Further Education and Training (FET) bands are eligible to perform at 50% and above, in both Languages and main stream subjects.

Mr Mveli explained that the provincial meetings presented education officials with an opportunity to zoom into various critical areas that needed to be prioritised in turning the sector around. These include the following: “the prioritising and strengthening of reading across the curriculum; the improvement of learner performance in the GET band; the promotion of technical subjects; ensuring that technical schools are fully resourced and supported to deliver quality education; and the strengthening of quality assessments and School Based Assessments.



The implementation of the Integrated Quality Management System - a key component of school functionality



The improvement of quality lesson plans, data analysis and effective classroom assessments remain the contributing factors towards the effective implementation of the Integrated Quality Management System (IQMS) aimed at elevating School Improvement Plans (SIPs) within the schooling system.

Speaking during the Director-General's Provincial Engagement Meeting in the Eastern Cape Province, Acting Director for IQMS, Mr Habib Karimulla, encouraged provinces to continue implementing the IQMS by enhancing school self-evaluation, performance appraisals of educators and Whole School Evaluation (WSE). He stressed the importance of focused teacher and school interventions in targeting the identified needs of schools. In repositioning and strengthening WSE, participants were urged to: strengthen the institutionalisation of school self-evaluation and external evaluation; engage in cost-effective operational measures in implementing their SIPs; and to focus on post-evaluation activities through a data-driven reporting system.

“All developmental activities must lead to whole school improvement. Principals have a pivotal role in leading and managing all school improvement activities. The specific job description of educators in the revised *Personnel Administrative Measures (PAM) 2016*, should be used as a management tool by their supervisors to discuss and affirm their key roles and responsibilities with clear targets for 2019 in their respective subjects and schools,” added Mr Karimulla.

“I therefore urge you to strive for excellence by setting the pace and leading by example in order to win the respect of both teachers and learners,” Mr Karimulla concluded.

DBE and PEDs tasked to promote Accounting and Business Studies intake and success rate in schools



The status of learner participation of, and the success rate in Accounting and Business Studies continue to call for urgent attention in the Basic Education Sector.

Chief Education Specialist for Accounting and Business Studies, Mr Masango Mzikaise, said that, “The number of learners taking Accounting and Business Studies has shown a steep decline from 143,962 learners in 2015 to 104,553 learners in 2018. The main reason for the decline may be attributed to the perception that learners regard the subject as challenging and the fact that some schools only allowed learners take the subject along with Mathematics as a subject choice”.

“The DBE repealed the provision that makes it compulsory for learners to take Accounting with Mathematics through Circulars S13 of 2017 and Circular S3 of 2018. This implies that any learner will be able to opt for Accounting as a subject choice. Also, an advocacy programme is still required to encourage learners at Grade 9 level to take Accounting as a subject of choice.

The combination of Mathematics, Physics and Accounting, should be promoted in township and rural schools as it provides learners with more post matric study options. This subject stream is very popular in former Model C schools. Another critical aspect to be considered is to equip teachers with the effective administration of the School Based Assessment to improve assessment practices in school. This will propel teachers to set their own standardised assessment tasks, tests and examinations that are on the same standard as NSC Examinations,” explained Mr Mzikaise.

Provinces encouraged to improve systemic and formal assessments



It is critical to prioritise the improvement of systemic and formal assessments in schools as we move towards improving quality learning outcomes in the General Education and Training band.

Acting Director for National Assessment, Dr Mark Chetty, addressed school principals in the Eastern Cape Province saying, “We must understand the identity of teachers in the 21st century classroom. We must emphasize that teachers play a vital role in mediating and measuring learning. The development of teachers, along with principals and education staff, must provide them with the knowledge, values, attitudes and competencies needed to assist every learner, within a context of inclusivity, to be suitably equipped to respond to skills of a changing world and future work. This will include utilising higher frequencies of data diagnostics, evaluative forms of assessment, and modern electronic platforms and applications.”

Dr Chetty added that a critical step in monitoring the success of implementing new policies and innovation, and whether learners are suitably equipped for the 21st Century will be the development of good metrics that provide valuable feedback on system-wide improvements. “According to a 2018 World Bank Report, a lack of measurement makes it hard to access the status quo, to make predictions and to know what actions taken are making a difference. It is therefore encouraging that social partners and teacher unions are supporting the modern design of the Systemic Evaluation Programme to evaluate aspects and components of the Basic Education Eco-System to provide all relevant stakeholders with a framework for improving learner performance from Grades R to 12,” Dr Chetty concluded.



Provincial Round-up

Western Cape Province



BETTER TOGETHER.

Western Cape Health MEC, Dr Nomafrench Mbombo and Western Cape Education MEC, Ms Debbie Schäfer, visited the School Wellness Mobile Project at Yomelela Primary School in Khayelitsha on 29 January 2019, where Gr R to Grade 1 learners received dental screenings. The School Wellness Mobile Project is a successful collaboration with the private sector. This flagship project of the Western Cape Government was rolled out during 2014 as a transversal strategy by the Departments of Health and Education, as part of the Integrated School Health Programme. The mobile clinics have been instrumental in taking primary healthcare to children in hard-to-reach-areas of the Province, reaching many deserving learners throughout the metro and in rural districts. By focusing on children's health, the Western Cape Government has made the strategic decision to prevent illness, uplift communities, and empower youths with the tools they need to succeed in school and life beyond the classroom. Since the start of the service, over 3000 school visits have been conducted with over 400,000 learners having benefitted from treatment at these mobile clinics.

KwaZulu-Natal Province



education

Department:
Education

PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

KwaZulu-Natal Education MEC, Mr Mthandeni Dlungwana, officially announced the construction of Dingukwazi Secondary School in Pongolo in the Zululand District on 29 January 2019. The construction of the school will cost the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education more than R80 million, and the project is expected to be finalised in 30 months. The infrastructure will comprise of 24 classrooms, an administration block, a science laboratory, four multipurpose classrooms, a media centre, a computer room, a soup kitchen, a guard house, ablution facilities and a sports field. "I am confident that this school will contribute immensely to changing the learning environment to one that is conducive for quality public education," said MEC Dlungwana in his address at the school.

Eastern Cape Province



Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
EDUCATION

The Eastern Cape Department of Education (ECDoE) hosted a two-day training session for School Governing Bodies (SGBs) at the East London Education Leadership Institute, Buffalo City Education District. The training of the SGBs, which took place from 29 to 30 January 2019, is meant to ensure that they are able to assist schools to function optimally. In addition, the training will also help to clarify roles, provide them with financial skills and general management practices as they are a critical component of the schooling system. The ECDoE holds a firm belief that SGBs play a vital role in school governance.

Upcoming Events

- 16 February 2019: The 19th Annual National Teaching Awards (NTAs) will be taking place at the Sandton Convention Centre in the Gauteng Province
- 21 – 22 February 2019: Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, will be hosting her first quarter meeting with District Directors at the DBE Building in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 25 – 27 February 2019: An International Africa PLAY Conference will be hosted in Pretoria in the Gauteng Province
- 28 February 2019: The 19th annual NTA award ceremony will be broadcast on SABC 2 at 22:00
- 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
- 15 March 2019: The National Education Excellence Awards will be hosted at the Sandton Convention Centre in the Gauteng Province

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