



THUTO

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THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



NEWSLETTER

Minister Motshekga hosts last Post-CEM Media Briefing on progress made in the Basic Education Sector



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, hosted a media briefing in Pretoria on 08 March 2019, to reflect on the developments in the Basic Education Sector since the current administration took office during 2014. The Department used the briefing to inform South Africans about the outcome of the last sitting of the Council of Education Ministers (CEM), which discussed critical areas that needed thorough intervention in taking the education system forward.

In her address, Minister Motshekga said that the Sector has registered significant progress in terms of access, equity and redress. However, Minister Motshekga stated that CEM would still need to put shoulder to the wheel to ensure that every South African has access to quality basic education. "One important reflection of quality in the system is the increasing trend of bachelor passes achieved by learners in no-fee paying and fee paying schools since 2007. It is encouraging to see increases in the number of black African bachelor passes that almost entirely account for the overall improvement," said Minister Motshekga.

Minister Motshekga further stated that CEM agreed that the policy on progression is critical because it assists the sector in retaining learners: "The 2018 National Senior Certificate (NSC) saw more than 100,000 progressed learners attaining a matric certificate, which granted young people options to either pursue a career at an institution of higher learning or enter into the corporate world. These are the learners that may otherwise have ended up dropping out of the system, but now they will have a chance at a brighter future".

Minister Motshekga said that the current and upcoming administration would have to prioritise a number of aspects, including Early Childhood Development (ECD); the Fourth Industrial Revolution; Coding and Robotics Curricula; the Sanitation Appropriate For Education (SAFE) Initiative; School Safety; and care and support for vulnerable children.

"We reflected on 2030 and what the system needs to put in place to ensure that the Class of 2030 embodies the vision we have for our children. We have a massive body of research and clear plans for the next administration based on the work already started. We have prepared the soil for even more positive growth and improvement in the years to come," the Minister concluded the briefing.

Click on the below link for the full CEM Media Briefing Report:

<https://www.education.gov.za/Newsroom/Speeches/tabid/950/ctl/Details/mid/8127/ItemID/6002/Default.aspx>



Minister Motshekga to award education excellence in schools and districts



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, will once again be honouring hard working districts and schools during the Annual National Education Excellence Awards that will be taking place at the Sandton Convention Centre, Gauteng Province on 15 March 2019.

These Awards were introduced during 2014 to recognise and celebrate the remarkable work done by districts and schools. The South African education system continues to deliver quality education to multitudes of learners through 24,000 schools and 75 districts across all nine provinces.

The Annual National Education Excellence Awards acknowledge the excellent work done by various District Officials who firmly guide schools to adhere to the core business of the schooling system, which is to deliver quality learning and teaching.

Districts are the crucial interface of the basic education sector in identifying best practice, sharing information, and providing support to schools. Districts are no longer viewed as the weak link in the education delivery chain, but have come into their own and have become “the backbone of education” as Minister Motshekga now calls them.

The continued growth in the performance of districts is closely monitored and evaluated by both the national and provincial education departments. It has been a long and challenging journey for education districts to claim their rightful place in the education landscape.



Entries invited for the SADC Secondary School Essay Competition



Secondary school learners from all 16 South African Development Community (SADC) Member States are invited to participate in the 20th edition of the Secondary School Essay Competition in their respective countries.

The topic for the 2019 SADC Secondary School Essay Competition is: **“How can Youth-focused Programmes Contribute to the Sustainable Socio-economic Development of the SADC Region?”**

The topic is derived from the 38th Ordinary SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government which is: **“Promoting Infrastructure Development and Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development”**, and learners are invited to discuss how Youth-focus Programmes would result in the advancement on sustainable economic growth and youth empowerment in the SADC Region.

The SADC Secondary School Essay Competition was established by the SADC Council of Ministers to encourage learners in the region to understand and advocate SADC’s role in support of equality, freedom, social justice, peace and security.

The deadline for the submission of entries to the various Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) is 08 April 2019, for the essays to reach the DBE for submission to the SADC Secretariat by 31 May 2019.

Click on the below link for additional information:

<https://www.education.gov.za/Informationfor/Learners/SADCEssayCompetition.aspx>

DBE introduces Lesson Study Programme to improve learning and teaching in the GET band



Teachers responsible for Natural Sciences and Technology for learners in Grades 4 to 6 and Natural Sciences for learners in Grades 7 to 9, require a new approach to improve quality learning and teaching in public schools. The DBE has rolled out the Lesson Study Programme for Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) to guide teachers in the application of various classroom teaching techniques. The Programme commenced in the Greater Taung Municipality, in the North West Province from 04 to 08 March 2019, and will be expanded to other provinces during the next few weeks.

Chief Education Specialist for Mathematics Science and Technology, Mr Siyalo Qanya, said that the Programme should be regarded as a teacher development approach, which would create a platform of best practice sharing amongst teachers and subject advisors. “Currently the Programme has been implemented at provincial, district and cluster level. A cluster in this case refers to a group of schools that have established Professional Learning Communities”.

Mr Qanya added: “The Lesson Study Programme is aimed at strengthening curriculum delivery in the General Education and Training (GET) band. As part of the Programme, the DBE has organised a crew of videographers to capture lessons rendered by experienced subject advisors. The scripted lessons will serve as training material for teachers to enrich their content knowledge and teaching competences in these subjects, and play a crucial role in the development of digital content for learners to acquire in-depth applied knowledge”.



Mangala Senior Secondary state-of-the-art school is handed over to Eastern Cape community



The DBE's Accelerated Schools Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (ASIDI) has been continuing its delivery of state-of-the-art school infrastructure to communities across the country during 2019.

Mangala Senior Secondary School, nestled amid the rolling hills of Mthatha in the Eastern Cape Province, is a R35 Million investment in infrastructure that is set to yield priceless academic returns.

ASIDI has continued to bring meaningful change to the lives of millions of learners across the country. Through its mandate to eradicate schools built from inappropriate material, ASIDI has to date, contributed 215 schools to communities across the country, in so doing, touching not only the lives of the school and its learners, but also those of the community.

Through its community empowerment programme, local contractors, females and youth are empowered to work during the construction phase. ASIDI projects have ensured that a meaningful impact is felt in local economies, SMME's and the youth in previously marginalised communities.



Funza Lushaka Bursary Programme now available on e-Government Portal



Applications for the Funza Lushaka Bursary Programme, a dedicated scheme to attract and fund students to choose teaching as a profession, can now be done online using this portal from 01 October to the first week of January of the following year. The officials administering the Programme, are currently embarking on provincial roadshows to share information on the Programme with aspiring teachers.

The purpose of the e-Government Portal is to make government services more accessible online; reduce the cost of accessing services; streamline administrative processes; improve turnaround times; and strengthen accountability and responsiveness.

The aim of the Programme, which is a merit bursary aimed at high-performing students aged 30 and below, is to contribute substantially to the supply of adequately trained teachers to the Education Sector with a focus on rural and disadvantaged schools. Bursaries are available to enable eligible students to complete a full teaching qualification; a four-year Bachelor of Education Degree (B.Ed.); and a one-year Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE). The Programme is available to students studying at any of the 24 universities that presently offer initial teacher education studies.

Youth interested in working with young people; passionate about teaching as a profession; ready to face and surmount difficult challenges with integrity; and willing to teach in any school to which he/she may be appointed by the province. Recipients of these bursaries will be required to teach at a public school for the same number of years that they received the bursary.

The South African Council for Educators (SACE) the, regulatory body for the teaching profession, requires that all teachers be vetted for sexual offences and criminal records, hence all prospective teachers are required to undergo a police clearance application to determine if they are not sex offenders. Bursaries may not be eligible to those that might have been found to contravene the *Sexual Criminal Offences Act*.

Online applications can be submitted to: www.eservices.gov.za.

For more information, email inquiries can be directed to: Inquiries.funzalushaka@dbe.gov.za.

Click on the below link for additional information:

<http://www.funzalushaka.doe.gov.za/eservices.jsp>

NSNP at the centre of government's food security efforts



South Africa is committed to end hunger and malnutrition in the country by providing school meals to over 9 million learners. Mr Thulani Masilela, the Facilitator for Outcome 2: *A long and Healthy Life for all South Africans* at the Presidency, emphasised the critical importance of the NSNP to the development agenda captured in the *National Development Plan* (NDP). Mr Masilela, who also convenes the National Food and Nutrition Security Coordination Committee, consisting of twelve government departments, including the DBE, NGOs and United Nations Agencies, delivered the keynote address during the recent NSNP Forum and Awards in Benoni.

The Committee has developed a Cabinet approved *National Food and Nutrition Security Plan* for South Africa (2018-2023). Despite the large number of food and nutrition programmes, malnutrition continues to grow. Mr Masilela shared concerning data from 2017 showing that 15,8% of households remain vulnerable to hunger, predominantly in the rural provinces of the North West (24,5%); the Northern Cape (20,5%) and the Eastern Cape (201,1%) and is much higher than the national average of 15,8%. Childhood stunting is also increasing from 24,5% in 2005 to 27% in 2016.

President Cyril Ramaphosa, in his State of the Nation Address during November 2017, said, “The school feeding programme alleviates short term hunger, and thus improves concentration in class. Furthermore, it has the potential of increasing attendance and enrolment of children in schools, resulting in improved retention. Through the implementation of the *National Food and Nutrition Security Plan 2018-2023*, it is anticipated that these milestones will be enhanced, in particular to ensure that the learners receive adequate, safe and nutritious meals”.

During the Forum, Chief Director for Care and Support in Schools, Dr Faith Kumalo, emphasised that for South Africa to succeed, Basic Education must succeed. The NSNP plays a critical role in enabling vulnerable children to learn, grow and succeed. Dr Khumalo requested delegates to continue to “champion the well-being of learners to make a difference”, in line with the Forum’s theme, and in responding to the President’s call, *Thuma Mina*.

Provincial Round-up

Gauteng Province



GAUTENG PROVINCE

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Gauteng Education MEC, Mr Panyaza Lesufi, officially handed over the newly constructed Marotola Primary School to the community of Stink water, north of Tshwane, on 06 March 2019. “We are proud to present this school to the people of Stinkwater and plead with the community to guard this school for future generations,” said Lesufi. The hand-over of the school is part of his school-a-week initiative in changing the face of township education to provide state of the art infrastructure to communities which have been previously under-served. The Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) said that the school was a modern facility with a design based on a prototype that incorporated their National Schools Infrastructure Norms and Standards. The school will cater for 1,000 learners from Grade 1 to Grade 7. The success of the project has been the direct involvement of the beneficiaries in the planning, implementation and ongoing management of the facilities as the newly constructed school created a total of 128 jobs for 31 male adults, 18 female adults, 46 male youth, 33 female youth and two disabled citizens. A total of 26 local sub-contractors were also appointed.

Western Cape Province



BETTER TOGETHER.

Muizenberg High School will honour Janet Ntozini, a Grade 12 learner, who was stabbed to death after standing up to a 23 year old man who attacked a disabled boy in Vrygrond in the Western Cape on Sunday, 03 March 2019. Principal Leonie Jacobsen described Ntozini as a student who had a promising future saying, “Janet was a child at risk when she first came to the school in Grade 8. There were many social ills she faced, yet she overcame these and became a star pupil. This was a child that was beaten, and it was a disabled child who was being beaten up. She stood up for this child. This is how she got killed. She had a very small frame, but she had the spirit to fight for what is right. The girl always stood up for those weaker than her, right up until her last moments”. The memorial service will be held at the school next week.

Upcoming Events

- 12 March 2019: Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, will be embarking on a Second Chance Matric Support Programme and *Read to Lead Campaign* roadshow to Khulani Special School in Hluhluwe, KwaZulu-Natal Province
- 15 March 2019: The National Education Excellence Awards will be hosted at the Sandton Convention Centre in the Gauteng Province
- 05 April 2019: The Ministerial Task Team examining existing textbooks and Learning and Teaching Support Material (LTSM) will launch their evaluation report at the DBE Building in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 08 April 2019: Deadline for the submission of the SADC Secondary School Essay Competition entries to the various Provincial Education Departments (PEDs)
- 31 May 2019: Deadline for the submission of the SADC Secondary School Essay Competition entries to the SADC Secretariat

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