



THUTO

PRODUCED BY:
THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



NEWSLETTER

Minister Motshekga launches Ministerial Task Team's Textbook Evaluation Report



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, launched the Textbook Evaluation Report of the Ministerial Task Team: *Evaluation of a Broad Sample of Existing Textbooks and Learning Materials Towards Developing a Textbook Policy that Promotes Diversity*, which serves as a blueprint for the development of a Textbook Policy aimed at promoting diversity in public schools. The launch took place at the DBE Building in Pretoria on 05 April 2019.

During 2016, Minister Motshekga established a Ministerial Committee to look into social variables such as racism, sexism and other forms of discrimination in textbooks. The Committee was expected to evaluate a sample of existing textbooks and Learning Support and Teaching Material (LTSM) against stereotypes and discrimination towards the promotion of diversity in education. The Committee had to ascertain whether the text and illustrations used were inclusive, offensive or excluded certain groups, in order to promote the values of equality and empowerment for learners. They also conducted a content analysis to ascertain the specific discrimination bias, frequency and type of discrimination.

The work of the Committee is aligned to policies such as the *National Youth Policy 2015-2020*, which indicates the DBE's need to audit teaching and materials to ensure that they do not contain latent elements of sexism or racism.

Addressing various education stakeholders at the launch, Chairperson of the Committee, Prof Crain Soudien, said more effort should be put in place to strengthen the screening processes for textbooks. "The Department should strengthen the textbook review process for issues of social inclusion and equity to be foregrounded, such as changing the assessment criteria; broadening the base of reviewers from diverse groups and constituencies; and tightening the specifications for publishers in producing textbooks (tendering process)". He further advised the DBE to provide minimum requirements and clear guidelines for authors and publishers on text and illustrations, and suggested that the DBE looks at empowering screening teams to detect stigma attached to teaching on diversity, for instance disabilities.

Summarising the report findings, Minister Motshekga, said: "Race and gender in textbooks reflect the demographic diversity of South Africa, but there is a distinct disproportionality in the ways different groups are captured. In terms of age, there's a bigger representation of learners and adults, but older people or pensioners and babies/children are seldom featured. In terms of sexuality, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, Intersex and Queer (LGBTIQ) community is rarely represented. There are notable silences and omissions in terms of religion, family status and disability. I hope this report will continue to ignite rich and constructive debates and robust discussions in society. Our curriculum transformation should be progressive so that the correct legacy will support the values as espoused in our *Constitution*".



SAFE registers progress in addressing sanitation issues in public schools



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, officially handed over 22 new toilets to Mahlungulu Primary School in the OR Tambo Inland District, Eastern Cape Province on 02 April 2019.

The new toilets were built by Amalooloo, a subsidiary of Betram, a company that designs and develops holistic, sustainable and ecologically friendly sanitation solutions. Amalooloo is one of the private donors working with the *Sanitation Appropriate for Education (SAFE)* initiative in providing decent sanitation to all school-going learners. Approximately 2,000 schools have insufficient sanitation facilities and require some form of refurbishments. In response to this emergency, President Cyril Ramaphosa launched the SAFE initiative during August 2018, pledging to eradicate all pit latrines within the next three years. In his Budget Speech, the Minister of Finance, Mr Tito Mboweni allocated R700 million for the 2019/20 financial year for this purpose.

During the hand-over event Minister Motshekga said: “As announced in President Ramaphosa’s economic recovery plan speech during September 2018, approximately 1,150 sanitation projects are to be funded for the 2019/20 financial year. Since the launch of the SAFE initiative, 234 out of 3,898 projects have reached practical completion. In addition, 415 SAFE initiatives are being implemented in the current financial year through the Accelerated Schools Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (ASIDI), as well as provincial infrastructure programmes. Outside of the SAFE initiative, a further 787 provincial sanitation projects are at practical and final completion stage”.

Minister Motshekga added: “Given the scale, and the fact that we are pressed for time, we are continuously mobilising all available resources. These include pledges from business, strategic partners and the construction industry to replace all unsafe toilets in public schools as a reminder of the important role that business continues to play in rebuilding our country. Building a new nation requires the collective capacity of its people, big business included”.



DBE and Tiger Brands Foundation transform NSNP kitchens for the better



A joint effort by the Department of Basic Education (DBE) and the Tiger Brands Foundation (TBF) in recognising the dedication of School Management Teams and best practices in school feeding, has earned Ratanda Primary School, in the Gauteng Province, a state-of-the-art kitchen to ensure that quality meals are served to its learners.

On 04 April 2019, Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, joined by the TBF Chairperson, Ambassador Sheila Sisulu, officially unveiled the new kitchen at the school to sustain best practice. As part of the hand-over ceremony, Minister Motshekga also handed out accredited certificates to Volunteer Food Handlers drawn from 13 schools in Alexandra, in the Gauteng Province, to acknowledge their sterling contribution towards education. The DBE and the TBF entered into a partnership during 2011 to recognise excellence and best practices in schools, and to initiate the in-school breakfast programme. Currently, more than 93 schools with 69,651 learners in various schools across provinces are benefitting from the programme.

In her address, Minister Motshekga said that the partnership will have a positive impact in improving learning outcomes: “The programme supplies our learners with one of the most important and nutritious meals of the day to support their school performance and improve their health. We further encourage proper food handling practices to minimise the risk and the contraction of non-communicable diseases”. The Minister also applauded the school principal and educators, as the school epitomises a well-managed school.

Ambassador Sisulu acknowledged the DBE for having granted the TBF an opportunity to give back to the Heidelberg community, adding that, “the Foundation recognises the importance of establishing a good nutritional infrastructure to help schools provide healthy and hygienic meals”. She further emphasised that the Foundation has also undertaken infrastructure development where necessary, either by upgrading existing facilities or providing new kitchens in the form of customised shipping containers or brick and mortar structures.



Director-General's 2019 Provincial Engagements



As the sector draws near to the end of the current administration, the DBE has begun serious reflections on the gains made in the last five years, in a bid to capitalise on our successes and identify gaps for which measures should be put in place to strengthen the delivery chain of education at all levels.

The Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mwel, began his engagements with provinces in January 2019 with the following aims:

- To reflect on progress made in meeting goals and objectives of the *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDG4), the *African Agenda 2063*, the *Continental Education Strategy for Africa* (CESA) 2016-2025, the *National Development Plan* (NDP) and the *Action Plan 2019: Towards Schooling 2030*;
- To strengthen the alignment of Policy formulation and implementation from National to Provincial, District, School up to Classroom level;
- To carry out Minister's obligation (Section 8) in terms of the *National Education Policy Act* (NEPA), no 27 of 1996;
- To strengthen collective efforts in providing Quality Basic Education; and
- To ensure that different role players in the value chain of providing Quality Basic Education close ranks in realising the objectives and goals.

The Director-General's initiative in engaging key education officials and school principals from the nine provinces, through the 27 engagements scheduled for the first half of the year, will assist the sector to reflect honestly, in the spirit of wanting to strengthen the foundations and build a solid education sector that will see the goals of the NDP being implemented in a comprehensive and cohesive way. The end result of all these initiatives is aptly portrayed in the following NDP quotation:

"By 2030, South Africans should have access to education and training of the highest quality, leading to significantly improved learning outcomes. The performance of South African learners in international standardised tests should be comparable to the performance of learners from countries at a similar level of development and with similar levels of access." (National Planning Commission: National Development Plan, November 2011).

Click on the below link to view the brochures:

<https://www.education.gov.za/2019DGE engagements.aspx>



DBE and NECT host Symposium on Psychosocial Support




The need to improve the psychosocial well-being of learners and educators has come into sharp focus as a result of a number of troubling incidents in South African schools. Psychosocial wellbeing is a critical enabler of teaching and learning.

Through the Psychosocial Support Directorate, the DBE partnered with the National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT) to bring together education stakeholders, partners, researchers, non-governmental organisations and development partners to shape a model of Psychosocial Support (PSS) for the sector. The symposium, which was held at the DBE in Pretoria on 02 April 2019, was co-chaired by Dr Granville Whittle, Deputy Director-General for Social Mobilisation and Support Services, and Mr Godwin Khosa, Chief Executive Officer of the NECT.

The symposium reflected on effective systems to improve learner psychosocial wellbeing. Key expert presentations were rendered by Professor Mark Tomlinson (Stellenbosch University), Professor Ronel Ferreira (University of Pretoria) and Dr Goodman Sibeko (University of Cape Town) on successful research-based mental health/wellbeing interventions in South African schools, including the role of non-specialist workers, and resilience building.

Drawing on the DBE draft strategy on PSS in the basic education sector, a model for PSS, developed by the DBE and the NECT, was presented to solicit buy-in, input and establish partnerships for its implementation. The initiative was well received and overwhelmingly supported, with inputs submitted for refinement. Both Dr Whittle and Mr Khosa emphasised the need to address the impact of social and emotional challenges on learning and teaching in a collaborative way, in order to strengthen the work already done by the DBE and Provincial Education Departments (PEDs).

DBE and PEISA observe annual Physical Education Month



PHYSICAL EDUCATION Month
06 April - 10 May

**TEACHING
Practices in Physical Education**

callcentre@dbe.gov.za call centre: 0800 202 933 www.education.gov.za

The DBE, in collaboration with the Physical Education Institute of South Africa (PEISA), will be observing annual Physical Education Month from 6 April to 10 May 2019.

The 2018 Physical Education Symposium was successfully hosted in Kimberley, Northern Cape Province. The annual symposia are central to a series of established Physical Education advocacy and sector mobilisation campaigns, held as a highlight on the DBE-PEISA annual calendar. The theme for the 2019 Provincial Physical Education Symposia is: “Teaching Practices in Physical Education: Life Skills/Orientation”.

The symposia serve as a platform for various stakeholders to debate, share and reinforce the implementation of Physical Education instruction to improve the quality of basic education in schools. The symposia also reinforce stakeholder collaboration and programme alignment, so as to enhance and widen the opportunities for learners to access Quality Physical Education (QPE).

The 2019 provincial symposia will be attended by Life Skills/Life Orientation Curriculum Education Specialists and provinces will identify and invite teachers who will be celebrated and awarded prizes and certificates of recognition for: *Excellence in the Teaching of Life Orientation - Physical Education Component*.



Clamping down on unprofessional conduct of registered auditors and accounting officers



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, formally furnished all professional bodies with a mandate to investigate allegations of misconduct within the education sector after receiving a number of allegations on professional misconduct of registered auditors and accounting officers. The *South African Schools Act (SASA) No. 84 of 1996* regulates the governance and accountability of schools under the purview of the Minister of Basic Education.



Section 43 (1) of the *South African Schools Act* further requires that the School Governing Body (SGB) of a public school must appoint a person registered as an auditor in terms of the *Auditing Profession Act, 2005* (Act No. 26 of 2005), to audit records and financial statements. The SGB can also appoint a person who is qualified to perform the duties of an accounting officer in terms of Section 60 of the *Close Corporations Act, 1984* (Act No. 69 of 1984); or is approved by a Member of the Executive Council for this purpose.”

Provinces are requested to submit cases of professional misconduct to the DBE’s Sector Audit Directorate. All cases will be reported to professional bodies through the “lodging of complaints” links for investigations, and a case number will be allocated. A formal letter will be submitted to the Directorate: Sector Audit on the outcome of the investigations. Communication will then be submitted to the relevant Provincial Education Department (PED) on the outcome of the investigations. The individual, if found guilty, will be charged with a penalty in accordance with the relevant professional body and removed from the database of auditors/ accountants. Provinces will thereafter not be permitted to utilise these services of the individual.

Ms Devoshum Moodley-Veera, Sector Audit Director, indicated that this will reduce the number of fraud and corruption claims in the education sector and improve the governance of the sector as a whole. Only registered and qualified individuals will be permitted to perform auditing or bookkeeping services in the sector.

Click on the below link to familiar yourself with *Circular M2 of 2019*:

<https://www.education.gov.za/Portals/0/Documents/Publications/Circular%20M2%20of%202019%20NEW.pdf?ver=2019-04-05-113123-687>

Provincial Round-up

Gauteng Province



GAUTENG PROVINCE
EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Gauteng Education MEC, Panyaza Lesufi, launched Autism Month at the CSIR International Convention Centre in Tshwane, Gauteng Province on 02 April 2019. Autism, or Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), refers to a broad range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills; repetitive behaviour; speech and nonverbal communication; and mental health challenges such as anxiety, depression and attention issues. Indicators of autism usually appear by the age of two or three years old, whilst some associated development delays in children can appear even earlier around 18 months. Research shows that early intervention leads to positive outcomes later in life for people with autism.

The launch raised awareness about ASD and its effect on learners, as well as support for parents and their autistic children. The Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) reported that, over the last few years, it has been able to provide adequate learning facilities for learners with autism and other disabilities. “We need proper schools that can cater for our children, quality schools and schools that have facilities and professionals. We have just opened a new school outside Sandton, specifically for this particular sector and other learners with disabilities so that we can provide the relevant support and guidance. During 2015 we had only two schools, but we now have 17 new schools that are in that particular sector,” MEC Lesufi explained.

Western Cape Education MEC, Debbie Schäfer is delighted that the Western Cape Education Department's (WCED's) "Raise Your Voice. Not Your Phone" campaign was honoured at the recent IAB Bookmark Awards in Cape Town. The IAB Bookmark Awards is an IAB SA initiative for rewarding excellence in digital marketing and sets the benchmark for tech, digital and cutting edge innovation. The WCED's "Raise Your Voice. Not Your Phone" Campaign won a Silver Award under the category "Content Strategy" and a Bronze Award under the category "Public Service and NPO Platforms". The Campaign was also nominated as a finalist in seven categories. Given the prevalence of bullying in our schools, the WCED embarked on a video campaign to highlight the effects of bullying on learners, as well as to draw attention to the fact that learners who film, post or distribute videos are also participating in the bullying. The campaign also offers support and advice on how to intervene when bullying occurs and provides support for learners experiencing such abuse.

Upcoming Events

- 06 April – 10 May 2019: The DBE and PEISA will be celebrating Physical Education Month
- 08 April 2019: Deadline for the submission of the SADC Secondary School Essay Competition entries to the various Provincial Education Departments (PEDs)
- 09 April 2019: The Wesselton Primary School in Ermelo, Mpumalanga Province will be handed over to the community as part of the Accelerated Schools Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (ASIDI) Programme
- 10 April 2019: The Victor Poto Senior Secondary School in Libode, Eastern Cape Province will be handed over to the community as part of the Accelerated Schools Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (ASIDI) Programme
- 10 April 2019: The DBE, in collaboration with PEISA, will be observing annual Physical Education Month in Midrand in the Gauteng Province
- 12 April 2019: The Chief Henry Bokleni Senior Secondary School in Libode, Eastern Cape Province will be handed over to the community as part of the Accelerated Schools Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (ASIDI) Programme
- 24 April 2019: President Cyril Ramaphosa will be launching the Presidential Reading Club Initiative in the Gauteng Province
- 26 – 27 April 2019: The DBE, in collaboration with PEISA, will be observing annual Physical Education Month in Mmabatho in the North West Province
- 27 April 2019: South Africa will be celebrating Freedom Day

Enquiries:

Editor: Mr Elijah Mhlanga

Chief Director: Media Liaison - National and Provincial Communication

Tel. No: 012 357 3773