



THUTO

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THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



NEWSLETTER

President Ramaphosa unveils three new state-of-the-art schools in KwaZulu-Natal Province

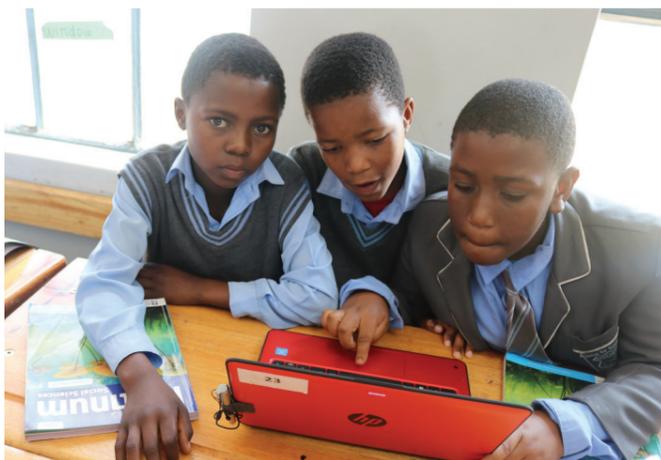


Government's commitment towards eradicating mud school structures across all nine provinces has gained momentum in areas that were mostly affected, including the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape Provinces. As part of the Thuma Mina Campaign, President Cyril Ramaphosa delivered three state-of-the-art schools to various communities in the KwaZulu-Natal Province on 17 April 2019.

Built as part of the Accelerated Schools Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (ASIDI), the three schools: Enhlanhleni, Lembe and Ingweni Phaphama Primary schools, will serve as hubs of excellence as they are equipped with laboratories, media centres, administration blocks, as well as nutrition centres for learners. The ASIDI project was established by the Department of Basic Education (DBE) in 2011 to address the school infrastructure backlog in rural provinces and under-privileged urban areas. Initially, the project was aimed at replacing 510 inappropriate school structures. ASIDI has successfully replaced more than 216 schools in the country to date, and a further 100 ASIDI schools are currently under construction.

In his address, President Cyril Ramaphosa said: "As part of ASIDI, we are changing the landscape of school communities across the country. There are more than 100 schools currently under construction. Over the last two decades, we have constructed approximately 39, 000 additional classrooms and over 1, 200 new schools in South Africa. It is significant that in building and renovating these three primary schools, Government has partnered with Adopt-a-School Foundation, a non-profit organisation that developed an innovative approach to Whole School Development".

The President stated that the partnership will promote efficiency in the adopted schools whilst ensuring that quality learning and teaching prevail at all cost. "Primary schools are the foundation upon which our future is built. We are handing over these primary schools so that you can use them to nurture the talents of our children and equip them with the knowledge and skills for a changing world".



Director-General Mweli addresses DBE employees on important Sector deliverables



Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mweli, addressed DBE employees at the DBE building in Pretoria on 18 April 2019, saying: “The end of the fifth administration is approaching and we as the DBE, should prepare ourselves for the sixth administration”. DG Mweli used the opportunity to express his appreciation to Minister Angie Motshekga and Deputy Minister Enver Surty for their leadership during this period. Mr Mweli also expressed his appreciation to staff members for their commitment towards improving quality basic education since his appointment as Director-General on 15 August 2015.

“I have been visiting various provinces across the country to ensure the implementation of initiatives to improve the National Senior Certificate (NSC). This week, I wrapped up Provincial Engagement Visits in the Gauteng Province and I will be visiting the KwaZulu-Natal Province next week.”

DG Mweli made a presentation on the priorities for the Sector referring to the *National Development Plan (NDP)*. “We have to ensure access to education and training of the highest quality; improving learning outcomes; and improving performance in international assessments. During the next three years, 80% of Bachelors passes should be from Quintile 1, 2, and 3 schools, and by 2030, 90% of the total number of learners must perform at 50% and above.” Concerning the six social justice principles of redress, access, equity, quality, efficiency and inclusivity, DG Mweli said that we are not doing well in terms of efficiency. This had to improve, as well as quality in terms of the level of performance of learners from Grade R to Grade 12.

DG Mweli mentioned that President Ramaphosa, in his State of the Nation Address (SONA) on 7 February 2018, highlighted important deliverables that must be prioritised for competencies and skills development for a changing world. These are Early Grade Reading across the curriculum; the migration of Early Childhood Development (ECD) from Social Development to the DBE; the Three Stream Model to increase Mathematics Science and Technology (MST) participation; incentives to promote the teaching profession to enhance the quality of the teaching profession; participation in preparation for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, along with the introduction of coding and robotics; entrepreneurship; infrastructure and the eradication of pit latrines; and to ensure that Learners with Special Education Needs (LSEN) have equitable access to education.

In conclusion, DG Mweli quoted Alvin Toffler saying, “The illiterate of the 21st Century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn and relearn”, advising on the benefits of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), and the importance for employees to optimise the utilisation of ICTs and business processes.



Nine South African girl learners represent South Africa in the regional African Girls Can Code Initiative



More than 50 participants from the Eastern and Southern African regions, including nine South African girl learners, are currently participating in the African Girls Can Code Initiative (AGCCI), which is taking place in Pretoria from 14 to 28 April 2019. The workshop was organised by the United Nation Women and International Telecommunication Union (ITU), in collaboration with the Department of Basic Education (DBE), the Department of Science and Technology and the Royal Danish Embassy in Ethiopia, to promote digital literacy on the continent.

Basic Education Deputy Minister, Mr Enver Surty, was invited to motivate the learners to take a keen interest in coding. Mr Surty took to the podium to reflect on the significant progress registered by the DBE in preparing learners for the Fourth Industrial Revolution. In his address, Mr Surty indicated that plans are underway to introduce the robotics and coding curriculum in the General Education and Training (GET) band. "The DBE will be piloting the curriculum in 1,100 schools across all nine provinces this year. The curricula will ensure that our schooling system produces learners with the foundations for future work, and equip them with skills for the changing world," remarked Deputy Minister Surty. He further stated that the DBE is in the process of digitising Learning and Teaching Support Material (LTSM): "So far more than 80% of our high enrolment textbooks in both the GET and Further Education and Training (FET) bands have been digitised".

AGCCI Coordinator, Ms Ida Jallow from ITU explained: "The initiative is designed to expose and equip young girls with digital literacy, coding and personal development skills. The four-year programme will train young girls to become programmers, creators and designers, placing them on track to take up education and careers in ICT and coding. Not only will the training equip young girls with ICT skills, it will also act as a tool to empower them to unlock Africa's development potential across various sectors".

Deputy Minister Surty commended ITU and UN Women for having established AGCCI, saying that it would play a crucial role in ensuring that young girls become progressive programmers and developers in the ICT arena.



DBE and PEISA observe annual Physical Education Month



The DBE, in collaboration with the Physical Education Institute of South Africa (PEISA), will be observing annual Physical Education (PE) Month in Mmabatho in the North West Province from 26 to 27 April 2019. Physical Education symposia have already been successfully hosted in the Northern Cape and Gauteng Provinces in celebration of annual PE Month, observed from 6 April to 10 May 2019, with Physical Education Day being observed on 10 May 2019.

The annual symposia serve as a platform for various stakeholders to debate, share and reinforce the implementation of PE instruction to improve and enhance access to Quality Physical Education (QPE) in schools. 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 World Health Organisation, during the 54th World Health Assembly in 2001, decided that annual World Day for Physical Activity on 6 April, should be instituted globally to promote physical activity. This year marks the fifth year that South Africa will be celebrating annual PE 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

Provincial Round-up

Western Cape Province



Western Cape Government
Education

BETTER TOGETHER.

Western Cape Education MEC, Ms Debbie Schäfer, recently announced that Sun Exchange will provide solar power to several schools in the Western Cape Province, with Protea Heights Academy in Cape Town identified as the first school to benefit from the project. Protea Heights Academy specialises in Mathematics, Sciences and Technology, and is a hub for e-learning and advanced learning. Sun Exchange, an award-winning global solar micro-leasing marketplace, has been powering up communities, schools and businesses across South Africa, enabling beneficiaries to have solar power installed with no upfront or on-going operational costs. With immediate savings on their energy bills, schools can focus their resources on learning and teaching. The project will enhance the school's already formidable reputation for excellence and futuristic and critical thinking in preparation for the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Owing to this innovative approach, Protea Heights will utilise clean energy affordably, as well as use this opportunity to teach the learners about the technology and principles of entrepreneurship. This is an example of the Western Cape Department of Education's (WCDE's) commitment to growing a green economy by making clean power accessible to schools.

KwaZulu-Natal Province



education

Department:
Education
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education's Curriculum Development Directorate recently held a three day workshop as part of the Intervention Programme for schools that obtained a 30% pass rate and below in the 2018 NSC Examination. The workshop was held at the Provincial Teacher Training Institute in Glenwood, Durban from 12 to 14 April 2019.



Gauteng Education MEC, Mr Panyaza Lesufi, is dismayed that the School Governing Body (SGB) of Oakdale Secondary School in Ennerdale closed the school amid demands for urgent repairs. “We condemn the act of shutting down the school as it impacts negatively on learners as they miss out on learning and teaching time,” said Lesufi. Departmental inspectors had assessed the storm damage sustained last year, along with a building that had been struck by lightning, and discovered that the school needed major rehabilitation. A service provider is being appointed to assist with repairs to the school.

Upcoming Events

- 06 April – 10 May 2019: The DBE and PEISA will be celebrating Physical Education Month
- 24 April 2019: President Cyril Ramaphosa will be launching the Presidential Reading Club Initiative in the Gauteng Province
- 24 – 25 April 2019: A Basic Education Retreat (BER) will be taking place at African Pride Mount Grace Country House & Spa in Magaliesburg, North West 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
- 3 May 2019: The DBE, in collaboration with PEISA, will be observing annual Physical Education Month in King Williams Town in the Eastern Cape Province
- 31 May 2019: Deadline for the submission of the SADC Secondary School Essay Competition entries to the SADC Secretariat

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